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NICHOLAS A. GROESCH/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Sailors aboard the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan conduct a countermeasure wash-down on the flight deck on March 11, 2011. Sailors scrubbed the external surfaces on the flight deck and island superstructure to remove potential radiation contamination. In 2011, the Ronald Reagan was operating off the coast of Japan providing humanitarian assistance as directed in support of Operation Tomodachi.

Report: USS Reagan exposed to radiation levels exceeding what Japanese officials said

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — When the USS Ronald Reagan arrived off the coast of Japan's main Honshu Island on March 13, 2011, it was greeted by radiation levels that far exceeded what Navy leadership had been told to expect by the Japanese government,

according to a new report in the Asia-Pacific Journal.

The report, "Mobilizing Nuclear Bias: The Fukushima Nuclear Crisis and the Politics of Uncertainty," says that the carrier was exposed to levels of radiation that were 30 times greater than normal as it steamed for the coast to aid victims of the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami.

Navy leadership has said that sailors were not exposed to harmful levels, even though those aboard were told to scrub the ship and equipment in protective suits. But the damage to the Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima plant was far worse than initially feared.

SEE RADIATION ON PAGE 3

Air Force plans Global Hawk upgrade to replace U-2 spy planes

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Air Force will spend \$1.9 billion over 10 years upgrading Global Hawk drones to take over missions flown by U-2 surveillance planes starting in 2016, officials said.

The Lockheed U-2, which flew spy missions over the Soviet Union during the Cold War, is marked for retirement in the proposed 2015 defense budget.

It's a move that's designed to save money in the long term but it will cost about \$1 billion extra over the next five years due to the cost of upgrading the Global

Hawk to perform the U-2's missions, officials said.

A major part of the upgrade involves moving sensors from the U-2 to the Global Hawk at a cost of about \$500 million over the next few years, said a senior defense intelligence official who spoke on background.

"There are some capabilities

on the U-2 that (combatant commanders) like that are not on the Global Hawk," the official said.

These include a wet-film camera that can quickly photograph a vast area much faster than the digital sensors mounted on the Global Hawk, he said.

The camera is used in Afghanistan and it is particularly useful

for monitoring treaty compliance in the Middle East because its speed means there's less chance of counting moving vehicles more than once, he said. The other piece of gear moving to the drone is the world's most advanced airborne electro-optical sensor.

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MLB: Astros' top prospects closing in on majors » Back page

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I broke my hip. I broke my neck. I had a couple of surgeries. I was lucky I never had anything serious happen to me."

— Former professional motorcycle rider-turned-hoteller Goat Breker, on his exploits before opening a business in the once-booming Mojave Desert town of Randsburg, Calif., to host visiting dirt bikers

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MIDEAST

Navy: Sailor lied about grenade attack

By DIANNA CAHN

The (Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK, Va. — In the moments before the grenade exploded, two Afghan men sat in the back of a medical clinic on a small military base, waiting to see an American medic.

Petty Officer 1st Class Omar Pescador-Montanez, a Navy corpsman, was the only other person in the building.

It was Aug. 2, and the summer heat was oppressive at the base housing Navy SEALs and Afghan Special Forces.

One of the men waiting worked for U.S. forces at the compound in southeastern Afghanistan. He escorted the other man — thought to be an Afghan soldier — complain-

ing of leg pain.

In actions at the heart of a criminal case against him, Pescador-Montanez suddenly ran into the room and told the men to take cover; he thought someone had thrown something into the building.

Nothing happened. All three ran outside and didn't see anything. Then Pescador-Montanez ran back into the building. There was an explosion.

Pescador-Montanez, who deployed to Afghanistan with SEAL Team 10, has maintained that he came under a grenade attack that injured him.

The government isn't buying it.

The Navy accuses the corpsman of creating the entire scene, exploding the grenade to get out of

his duties and then lying about it.

His lawyer, Lt. Cmdr. Kimberly Kelly, described the incident in a hearing Thursday at Norfolk Naval Station. "The government essentially has a circumstantial case," Kelly told the court. "It is essentially alleging that there is no other reasonable possibility other than Mr. Pescador-Montanez detonated the grenade."

She argued for access to classified information about attacks the SEALs had encountered from the base, called Village Security Platform Shobar. By showing there were hostile forces in the area, Kelly said, it's not "completely implausible to say there was an attack on the base itself."

Marine Capt. Keaton Harrell, the prosecutor, said the base

had not come under attack in the months before the incident. He said there were a few attacks on personnel from the base while on patrol, but they were miles away and involved gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades, not hand grenades. Specifically, he added, they did not involve an American hand grenade.

The case raises issues about maintaining standards of evidence and testimony in circumstances complicated by war.

The defense is calling for the government to present the Afghans as witnesses and arguing that the crime scene was not properly sealed, leading to a contamination of evidence.

A court-martial has been scheduled for May.



PAULOS VRIKONIDES/AP



MURRAY BREWSTER, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Canadian mission ends

Above: The Canadian army takes down the country's flag on Wednesday for the last time in Afghanistan, ending its 12-year mission.

Left: The last 84 Canadian soldiers to leave Afghanistan arrive at Paphos International Airport in Cyprus early Sunday for some rest and relaxation before catching a flight home. The war cost the lives of 158 soldiers, one diplomat, one journalist and two civilian contractors, according to The Canadian Press.

Ex-defense minister quits Afghan race for president

The Associated Press

KABUL — Afghanistan's former defense minister says he is withdrawing his candidacy for president in the upcoming election to be held on April 5.

Rahim Wardak told reporters Sunday that he was not supporting any other candidate nor did he give a reason for pulling out of the race. He was not considered a front-runner.

Wardak's withdrawal leaves nine presidential candidates still in the running to replace President Hamid Karzai, who is banned from seeking a third term in office under the country's constitution.

Karzai's elder brother, Qayyum Karzai, withdrew his name earlier this month. He threw his support behind Zalmay Rassoul, considered one of the leading candidates.

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STARS AND STRIPES

PACIFIC



Photos courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Guests board the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan to attend the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami memorial ceremony. The ceremony marked the third anniversary of the tragic event.

Radiation: Research also looks at US Navy's response to the meltdown

FROM FRONT PAGE

The report, released Feb. 17, and documents obtained by its author, Kyle Cleveland, an associate sociology professor at Temple University Japan, fuel questions that remain more than three years later over what the Japanese government and TEPCO knew and what they told the United States as the nuclear disaster was escalating. Debate also continues over the level at which exposure to radiation becomes a health risk.

The report comes on the heels of a January directive from Congress instructing the Defense Department to look at the potential health impact on the Navy first responders in Japan. In 2012, sailors and Marines filed a lawsuit alleging that TEPCO's misinformation coaxed U.S. forces closer to the affected areas and made them sick. An amended suit was filed last month.

Delicate diplomatic balance

Cleveland began to study the crisis so he could accurately advise his Study Abroad students on safety in the aftermath of the disaster, he told Stars and Stripes. Through his research and document requests, he examined the Fukushima Dai-ichi meltdown, the unconfirmed information released by the Japanese and the Navy response in the first month afterward.

Cleveland reported that the U.S. government tried to maintain a delicate diplomatic balance, leading a rescue effort and advising its Japanese allies not fully trusting Japan's assessment of the danger. At the same time, the Navy was identifying the potential scope of the problem while taking steps to ensure the safety of its servicemembers.

"As the crisis unfolded and efforts to bring the reactors under control were initially proving ineffective, concerns in-

creased that radiation dispersion was unmitigated, and with radiation monitoring by the U.S. military indicating levels significantly beyond TEPCO's conservative assessments, the United States broke with Japan, recommending an 80km (50-mile) exclusionary zone, and initiating military assisted departures for embassy staff and Department of Defense dependents from Japan," Cleveland wrote.

"These actions deviated significantly from Japan's assessments (which had established a 30km evacuation zone), creating a dynamic where the U.S. ... attempted to impose a qualitatively different crisis management response," he wrote.

Cleveland's report included transcribed telephone conversations between U.S.-based federal government officials, nuclear authorities, U.S. Embassy officials in Tokyo and military staff in the Pacific Command.

In one case, the participants in the discussion about issues on the ground were Adm. Kirkland Donald, then director of naval reactors; Michael Weber, of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Donald's patrol director, Troy Mueller; and Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman.

Poneman asked Donald about the difference between radiation levels they were finding and what they were being told by the Japanese. Mueller told Poneman that levels detected 100 nautical miles away were about 30 times those in a normal air sample out at sea.

"We thought based on what we had heard on the reactors that we wouldn't detect that level even at 25 miles," he said. "So it's much greater than what we had thought. We didn't think we would detect anything at 100 miles," he told Poneman.

Mueller said it would take a person 10 hours to reach a threshold where exposure at that level would become a thyroid dose issue.



Aviation Electronics Technician Airman Ryan Cordova, of Albuquerque, N. M., scrubs the flight deck after a countermeasure wash-down on March 11, 2011, aboard the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan.

Donald and Mueller also described airborne particulate levels being detected at 2½ times above normal using onboard sensors. Aircrews traveling to a Japanese vessel 50 miles offshore from the plant had five times the minimum detectable levels on their shoes when no radiation was expected at that distance, they said.

Weber said the readings were greater than what was expected but were still fairly insignificant.

DOD findings

A final DOD report regarding radiation doses during Operation Tomodachi, including for those aboard the Reagan, agreed that the levels were too low to see any adverse health effects.

"The reported radiation doses to fleet-based individuals were at least one order of magnitude less than any dose associated with adverse health effects," according to the report, which was released on the Operation Tomodachi Registry in September. An amended lawsuit against TEPCO was

filed last month after a San Diego judge took issue with aspects of the original suit. The 50 servicemembers and their children in the suit claim to suffer from exposure-related ailments such as unexplained cancer, excessive bleeding and thyroid issues. Lawyers say more than 100 others have asked to join the suit.

The majority of the plaintiffs are from the Reagan, which can accommodate 6,275 sailors.

Many of the issues regarding the Reagan's Tomodachi mission, including its proximity to the plant and whether sailors on board were given iodine tablets, have been challenged by servicemembers in the suit.

The Japanese utility has until March 31 to respond, according to Paul Garner, a lawyer for the plaintiffs.

Congress has given Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. Jonathan Woodson until April 15 to submit a report regarding the Reagan and adverse health impacts.

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(U.S.) actions deviated significantly from Japan's assessments ... creating a dynamic where the U.S. ... attempted to impose a qualitatively different crisis management response.

Kyle Cleveland

Temple University Japan professor and author of the report

EUROPE

Vicenza speller keeps contest crown in family

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — The ability to spell under pressure apparently runs in families.

At least that's the case with the Dayapremas from Vicenza, Italy.

With three-time European spelling bee champion Anuk Dayaprema too old to compete this year, the mantle fell to younger sister Selomi, 11, a sixth-grader at Vicenza Middle School, to keep the family's streak alive.

Appearing composed and relaxed at the microphone during the 32nd annual European PTA Spelling Bee on Saturday, Selomi breezed to the title in a quick 12 rounds.

Selomi outlasted 28 contestants

in grades three through eight from DODDS schools across Europe — a group that included at least one home-schooler.

Most spellers hung on until the third round, when the words became noticeably harder. The first word in round 3 to be misspelled was "julep." Other words that tripped up contestants included "anchovy," "kabuki" and "automaton."

One misspelled word equaled elimination.

After each round, those knocked out returned to the audience, some crying on parents' shoulders.

As the ranks began to thin, the bee seemed it might go the distance like last year's 29-rounder. Headed into round 12, Selomi shared the stage in the Ramstein



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Vicenza Elementary/Middle School's Selomi Dayaprema spells a word Saturday during the 32nd annual European PTA Spelling Bee at Ramstein Elementary School. She won by spelling "contented" correctly.

Elementary School cafeteria with two other unflappable spellers — Perry Potasi, a sixth-grader from Hohenfels Elementary School and last year's runner-up, and Ryan Rayos, a sharply dressed fifth-grader from Naples Elementary School, Italy, who finished fifth in the 2013 European bee.

Four words later, only Selomi remained. In round 12, the contest moved away from the 1,150-some-words "Spell-It" guide; contestants could review in advance.

Selomi first spelled "profound" correctly. Then Perry stumbled on "aflutter," spelling "afluttered," and Ryan missed "cutthroat," uttering "c-u-u-t-t-h-r-o-a-g-h."

Selomi easily spelled the championship word, "contented," for the win, as her parents watched on from the front row.

The pressure to win was great, she said afterward. There were the big shoes of her whiz-of-a-speller brother to fill, and she didn't want to let her school or parents down.

She studied hard, but not every



Eventual second-place finisher Ryan Rayos, of Naples Elementary School, thinks about a word.

day. "I really don't believe in two hours a day of studying. Sometimes I did, but I also" tried to make it fun, she said.

Army Master Sgt. Ganeg Dayaprema said he told his daugh-

ter, "First thing, you should not panic." And ask questions; spellers are allowed to inquire about a word's language of origin, its meaning and part of speech, among other queries.

With the win, Selomi moves on to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington in May, where she'll represent Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe.

Perry and Ryan went head-to-head for about a dozen rounds for second place.

At stake was the alternate spot for the national competition, in the event Selomi can't go.

Ryan prevailed on "parlance" and "frustrated."

"I feel actually pretty good," he said afterward while eating lunch with his family.

Ryan's mom, Gloria Rayos, helped him study "every day, at least two hours a day," but she had butterflies despite her son's intense preparation. "I'm always nervous," she said. "That's why I can't sit in the front row."

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Lt. Col. John Zapata, of USAFE, informs a contestant of an incorrect spelling as he and fellow judges Dell McMullen, superintendent of the Kaiserslautern DSO, left, and Ramstein Elementary teacher Deborah Henson monitor this year's spelling bee.

4 teachers in running for DODDS-Europe annual honor

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Four teachers from Europe are in the running for Department of Defense Education Activity Teacher of the Year honors for school year 2014-15.

All of the educators were named teacher of the year for their respective districts in Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe, school officials announced Friday.

They are Sara Loomis, an educational technologist from Kaiserslautern Elementary School, Kaiserslautern District; Kristina Muñoz, a third-grade teacher from Aviano (Italy) Elementary School,

Mediterranean District; Daisy Alegre-Cruz, an Advanced Placement psychology teacher from Lakenheath High School, Isles District; and Louise Thompson, a first/second-grade multi-age teacher from Ansbach Elementary School, Bavaria District.

"I want to extend my congratulations to these four highly qualified instructors," said Nancy Bresell, DODDS-Europe director. "It is an incredible honor to be selected and is a testament to their professionalism and dedication to our students. They are shining examples and representative of all teachers we have here in Europe."

Teachers may be nominated by peers, administrators, parents, students or community members. In the fall, a panel from DODEA

headquarters will choose an overall Teacher of the Year for 2014-15 from among district teacher finalists submitted from Europe,

the Pacific and the United States. That winner will compete for National Teacher of the Year honors.

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EUROPE

US airman is charged in death

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — An American airman has been charged in the death of a U.S. Navy petty officer who was found dead in the passenger seat of a car in Kaiserslautern during a traffic stop in Germany in December.

"On March 10, 2014, charges of murder and other violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice were preferred against U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt Sean M. Oliver, 34, of American Forces Network-Europe," 86th Airlift Wing spokeswoman Sandra Archer wrote in an emailed statement to Stars and Stripes on Friday.

Oliver, a broadcast engineer for AFN at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, was charged with assaulting and strangling Chepusov, who also worked for AFN. Oliver was also charged with obstructing justice and making false statements about Chepusov's death, according to Archer.

Oliver, 34, was stopped by German police early on the morning of Dec. 14 for driving



AFN Video

Petty Officer 2nd Class Dmitry Chepusov, a Navy broadcaster for American Forces Network Europe, was found dead in a vehicle in Kaiserslautern, Germany, on Dec. 14. A U.S. airman has been charged in Chepusov's death.

erratically and was later determined to have been legally intoxicated, according to a German police spokesman. During the stop, the police discovered Chepusov unresponsive in the car's passenger seat. Medical personnel later pronounced Chepusov dead at the scene.

A German autopsy concluded that Chepusov died of "force to the neck," and a German judge charged Oliver with manslaughter before he was remanded to U.S. custody.

The U.S. military did not place Oliver in pretrial confinement until days later. Initially, according to a December statement from the Air Force's Office of Special Investigations,

the suspect — now known to be Oliver — was remanded to his unit by his commander.

Oliver later landed in pretrial confinement, where he spent more than two months without charge.

"An Article 32 hearing will be scheduled to inquire into the truth of the matters set forth in the charges and recommend whether the charges should be adjudicated at a court-martial," Archer wrote. "People are reminded that the accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty."

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NCO facing June trial in rape case

Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — A senior noncommissioned officer at RAF Lakenheath, England, is charged with raping a female airman in 1994 and 2008 and faces court-martial in June, according to the 48th Fighter Wing.

Chief Master Sgt. Roy A. Bowser Jr., assigned to the 48th Communications Squadron, was charged Feb. 27 with rape in 1994 at or near Soesterberg, the Netherlands, according to Bowser's charge sheet and a wing spokesman.

He also is charged with obtaining sex by threat of death or violence, sodomy and shoving the alleged victim in 2008 at or near Bolling Air Force Base, Washington D.C.

"Bowser is currently working for the 48th Mission Support Group where he is supporting base-wide projects," Staff Sgt. Thomas Trower, a spokesman for the 48th Fighter Wing, wrote in an email.

Bowser's court-martial is scheduled to start in early June.

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MILITARY

Philippines, US resolve obstacle in military talks

By OLIVER TEVES
The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — American negotiators have agreed that Philippines authorities can have access to U.S. facilities set up inside local military bases, hurdling a key obstacle in their talks on a new military accord, Philippines officials said Friday.

That "access has always been a primordial concern" for the government, said Defense Undersecretary Pio Lorenzo Batino, the head of the Philippines negotiating panel. It would show Filipino control over these areas, a sensitive issue concerning sovereignty in this former American colony.

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said late last year that disagreements over the issue of access and control were delaying the negotiations on the new accord that will allow an increased U.S. military presence in the Philippines.

The Philippines is seeking stronger defense cooperation with the U.S. as its territorial dispute with China over areas in the South China Sea intensifies. That dovetails with Washington's in-

tention to pivot away from years of heavy military engagement in Afghanistan and Iraq to Asia.

Negotiations began in August on an agreement that would allow larger numbers of U.S. troops to have temporary access to Philippines military camps and would bring in aircraft, ships and other equipment. Hundreds of U.S. troops already have been deployed in the country's south to provide counterterrorism training to Filipino soldiers since 2002.

"It is safe to say that there will be language that will provide that the Philippine authorities would have access to the areas provided to the U.S. armed forces," Batino told reporters.

Eduardo Malaya, a member of the panel, said access is "assured" and what is left to be discussed "is the sharing of responsibilities with respect to security" of the installations. He said the agreement may be for "shorter than 20 years."

The Philippines negotiators did not say whether there will be any limit to the number of U.S. troops or to their length of stay. Batino, however, said any U.S. military facility will not be "a base within a base."

New hearing set Monday in general's sex assault case

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — The case of an Army general accused of sexually assaulting a female captain under his command is set to return to a Fort Bragg courtroom less than a week after proceedings were postponed to allow time for a possible plea agreement.

Officials at the North Carolina Army Base said the trial of Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair postponed last week will resume Monday.

There haven't been any major developments since the trial judge on Tuesday sent the jury of five two-star generals back to their duty stations around the world, Sinclair spokesman Josh Zeitz said. "Unless a plea agreement is reached by Monday, the hearing is expected to deal only with procedural issues like whether the judge should designate someone other than Fort Bragg's base commander with the authority to accept a plea agreement, Zeitz said.

The trial was postponed to give plea negotiations a second chance after emails surfaced showing the base commander, Gen. Joseph Anderson, may have weighed the broader implications on the

Army if he accepted a deal. The military code of justice requires the decision to be based solely on the evidence in the case.

The Pentagon has been under heavy pressure from Congress to combat rape and other sex crimes in the military. The Senate on Monday unanimously approved a bill making big changes in the military justice system to deal with sexual assault.

Sinclair, 51, former deputy commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, is accused of twice forcing a female captain to perform oral sex on him in Afghanistan in 2011 during a three-year extramarital affair. He has admitted to adultery, which is a crime in the military, but denied assaulting the woman. He could get life in prison if convicted.

The defense has portrayed the woman as a liar who concocted the allegations after she saw emails between Sinclair and another woman.

If no plea deal is reached, testimony in Sinclair's trial could not resume until the jury of generals returned to Fort Bragg from their posts as far away as Korea and Alaska.



BOBBY CUMMINGS/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

A RQ-4 Global Hawk taxis on the flight line as a U-2 makes its final approach Sept. 17, 2013, at Beale Air Force Base, Calif. The Air Force will spend \$1.9 billion over 10 years to have Global Hawks take over the U-2 mission.

Upgrade: Official says shrinking budgets spurred plan to improve drones' capabilities

FROM FRONT PAGE

The device is capable of surveying seven parts of the spectrum, including visible and infrared light, he said.

The Air Force fleet of "Block 30" Global Hawks — which are designed to replace the U-2 — will grow from 17 to 21 this year, said Air Force spokeswoman Maj. Mary Danner-Jones. The Air Force has 10 more "Block 40" Global Hawks, which carry only one sensor — a powerful ground target tracking radar — and will receive one more in June, she said.

Compliance improvements for the Global Hawk, including visibility and reliability, will cost \$1.3 billion during the next decade. Total expected investment costs are expected to amount to \$1.9 billion during that period, Danner-Jones said.

Until recently, officials had planned to keep the U-2 in service to save money in the near term. However, the likelihood that defense budgets will be constrained for years meant it's more prudent to seek long-term savings, the intelligence official said.

'It is not going to be [more cost-effective] in the next five to 10 years, but we plan on keeping the Global Hawk a long time — it could be flying for 50 to 60 years.'

senior defense intelligence officer

Rough estimates suggest that replacing the U-2 with the Global Hawk will be cheaper in the long term, he said.

"It is not going to be in the next five to 10 years, but we plan on keeping the Global Hawk a long time — it could be flying for 50 to 60 years," he said.

In 2012, flying the Global Hawk or the U-2 cost roughly \$32,000 per flight hour. However, by last year, the cost of flying the Global Hawk had dropped to \$24,000 per flight hour, he said.

The program will cost \$3.7 billion during the next five years, \$500 million more than it would have cost to keep flying the U-2, he said.

Ralph Cossa, of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Hawaii said it makes sense

for the U.S. invest in maintaining its technological edge in key areas.

"How much longer can you fly U-2s?" he asked, of the aircraft that entered service in 1955. "At some point, it is going to cost you money just to keep them in the air."

The U-2 became infamous in 1960 when CIA pilot Francis Gary Powers was shot down in one during a secret mission over what was then the Soviet Union, and the incident became a huge diplomatic embarrassment for the United States. During the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, the Soviets shot down a U-2 over Cuba, killing its pilot, Maj. Rudolf Anderson.

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Japan tests drums on Camp Foster for toxins

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japan's Ministry of Defense said Friday it is testing for toxic materials among some barrels and pipes recently unearthed by crews working on Camp Foster.

About 12 objects — what is believed to be a mix of rusted drums and piping — were discovered during a Japanese cultural assets survey at a construction site for

facilities related to the new U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa.

In February, officials with the local MOD defense bureau and Ginowan City visited the site and found no odor or discoloration in the surrounding soil, according to a ministry spokesman. However, the ministry said it will "promptly" test the material and any detected pollution will be removed from the site.

Barrels recovered around mili-

tary bases are not uncommon on Okinawa and have lately stirred controversy. The Air Force commissioned soil testing at Kadena Air Base schools in February after 83 buried barrels — some tainted with dioxin and herbicide — were found just off base. No dangerous pollution was detected.

In 2002, the city of Chatan near Camp Foster and Kadena unearthed 215 barrels of tar oil from former military land.

NATION

Silicon Valley billionaire buys record life policy

SAN FRANCISCO — An unnamed Silicon Valley billionaire has purchased the world's most valuable life insurance policy, worth \$201 million.

The man who cobbled the deal together said Saturday that it took seven months and 19 insurance companies to put together a deal that surpasses a \$100 million policy sold to Hollywood mogul David Geffen in 1990.

"No one company can afford to take a \$201 million hit," said Dovi Frances, the financial adviser who represents who he calls a "well-known billionaire."

Guinness World Records announced the surpassing of Geffen's record on Thursday.

Former Boston mayor has advanced cancer

BOSTON — Former Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, 71, has been diagnosed with an advanced form of an unknown cancer, the Boston Globe reported.

The newspaper said in a story posted on its website Saturday that doctors were unable to find the source of the cancer that had metastasized. The cancer was discovered in February by Menino's primary physician, Dr. Charles A. Morris, the newspaper reported.

Menino, the longest-serving Boston mayor, who retired from the office a year ago, has had many health problems in recent years. He said Morris, after making the discovery, was more shaken than Menino. "My attitude really is, I've got through it," Menino told the Globe.

Former Ga. lawmaker Callaway dies at 86

ATLANTA — Howard "Bo" Callaway Sr., a former Georgia congressman, Army secretary and one of the founders of Callaway Gardens, has died at age 86.

Rachel Crumley, a Callaway Gardens spokeswoman, said Callaway died Saturday from complications from a brain hemorrhage he suffered about two years ago. She said he died at an assisted-living facility in Columbus.

Callaway's son said in a statement that his father's spirit will live on in his love of and vision for Callaway Gardens.

Obama's 'Funny or Die' skit gets 15M views

NEW YORK — President Barack Obama's appearance on the "Between Two Ferns" satirical online talk show last week has reached 15 million views — almost as many as Bieber's videos.

The website Funny or Die said Friday that Obama's interview with Zach Galifianakis, posted Tuesday, will likely beat Bieber's record of 17.8 million views for the show. The pop singer's appearance was posted in September.

Galifianakis' act is to ask his guest hostile or inappropriate questions. Obama said he seemed nervous at the White House taping. "He was looking around at all the Secret Service guys with guns and thinking, 'I wonder what happens if I cross the line?'" the president said.

From The Associated Press



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVIS/AP

President Barack Obama, surrounded by supporters of his overtime plan, signs a presidential memorandum Thursday directing Labor Secretary Tom Perez to modernize overtime protections.

Overtime protection sought

Obama stirs controversy with move to modernize pay rules

By TOM RAUM
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's move to make more workers eligible for time-and-a-half overtime pay is being hailed by Democrats who see it as a potent midterm election issue and condemned by Republicans and business leaders as presidential overreach. Supporters say it will help the still-fragile economy; critics say it will damage it further.

It is likely to affect millions of American workers. "From my perspective, they have to be pulling numbers out of the air right now," said Washington labor lawyer Tammy McCutchen, referring to the conflicting claims by partisans that it would either help or hurt the economy. "We don't even know what the policy is going to be."

She's closer to the process than

most. As administrator of the Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division during the George W. Bush administration, McCutchen oversaw the last rewrite of the program in 2004.

Currently, salaried workers making more than \$455 a week, or \$23,660 a year, aren't eligible for time-and-a-half overtime if some of their work is considered supervisory, even though many spend most of their day doing manual, clerical or technical work with few management duties.

Obama signed a presidential memorandum on Thursday directing the department to devise new overtime rules "to ensure that workers are paid fairly for a hard day's work." He's tossing out most of the rules McCutchen wrote in the process.

"Well, it's going to be bad for business," she said in an interview. "It's going to be good for my bottom line. Lawyers all over the

country are going to be making a lot of money."

She called the rules "my babies. I spent two years of my life working on them. It's personal for me. It's going to be very sad to see them taking out a lot of the stuff I put in," she said.

She also warned that the Obama administration should expect a rocky road ahead in implementing whatever new policy emerges — just as the Bush administration faced last time around.

Those close to the process suggest it will take 12 to 18 months for the agency to complete its new assignment.

The move clearly has angered business groups and congressional Republicans, but it fits in with the overall Democratic midterm election game plan of focusing on income inequality and the middle class at the same time the stock market has soared.

South at heart of fight for Senate

By BILL BARROW
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The South is where President Barack Obama and Democrats long have struggled, and it's where the party's toughest battleground will be this year in the fight for control of the U.S. Senate.

Three incumbents must face the consequences of having voted for the new health care law, but Republicans first must settle primaries in several states, including a challenge to Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, of Kentucky.

All but one of the potentially competitive races is in a state Obama lost in 2012, and the president remains deeply unpopular among whites in the region. Republicans are optimistic they can achieve the six-seat gain needed to retake the Senate.

Democratic Sen. Kay Hagan, of North Carolina, Mark Landrieu, of Louisiana, and Mark Pryor, of Arkansas, are on the ballot for the first time since voting for the Affordable Care Act in 2010. The law's wobbly start and its image as a power grab have the incumbents on the defensive, emphasizing local issues and avoiding unnecessary mention of the second-term president who leads their party.

Obama's Gallup job approval lingers in the low 40s and is even lower in several states with pivotal Senate races. Republicans want to feed on that and follow the same road map that carried them to a House majority in 2010, Obama's first midterm election.

"Democrats hope this doesn't become a national election, but we don't think that's the case," said Republican National Committee spokesman Michael Short.

States ponder surplus cash use

The Washington Post

Florida lawmakers will consider a plan this week to reduce license plate fees by up to \$30 for every car. Wisconsin legislators are expected to cut half a billion dollars in property and income taxes, while Iowa has already passed billions in tax cuts.

Across the country, state lawmakers and governors who had grown accustomed to recession-era budget shortfalls and politically painful cuts to schools, roads and other services are once again flush with cash. Now, they are debating whether to give some of it back to the taxpayers, spend it or save it for another rainy day.

The new surpluses are the result of a booming stock market, which has fueled a surge in personal income tax revenue in some states while boosting sales tax

receipts in others. In California alone, the initial public offerings of Facebook and Twitter, which created hundreds of new millionaires and billionaires, pumped up to \$3 billion into state coffers from capital gains taxes.

That new money has freed state politicians, many of them running for re-election this year, from having to disappoint constituents with dismantled programs and further cuts. Now, they can afford to give voters something to feel good about.

"Most states look like they'll be above forecast," said Scott Pattison, executive director of the National Association of State Budget Officers. "It really does provide a bit of a cushion and allows them maybe not to embark on huge spending programs but to have a little bit more money."

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WORLD

Malaysia asks countries to provide radar data

BY CHRIS BRUMMITZ
AND JIM GOMEZ
The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Malaysian authorities on Sunday asked governments to divulge sensitive radar data, warning that without it locating the plane in what is now a massive search area might be impossible. They also examined a flight simulator that was confiscated from the home of one of the missing jetliner's pilots.

As investigators dug through the background of all 239 people on board Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 and the ground crew that serviced the plane, a new detail emerged that strengthened speculation that one or both of the pilots were involved in the aircraft's disappearance more than a week ago.

Officials revealed that the final words from the cockpit — "All right, good night" — were spoken to air traffic controllers after the plane's data communication system had been partially disabled. The pilots did not mention any trouble on board, suggesting they may have been misleading ground control.

Asked what the significance of that was, Malaysia air force Maj. Gen. Affendi Buang told reporters: "This will tell you something ... because this is something not normal that the pilot would do."

Affendi said he did not know whether it was the pilot or co-pilot who spoke to air traffic controllers. That uncertainty also opened the possibility that someone else spoke those words, though he did not mention this scenario.

The Boeing 777 went missing less than an hour into a March 8 flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing as it entered Vietnamese airspace. On Saturday, Malaysia's government confirmed that the plane was deliberately diverted and may have flown as far north as Central Asia or south into the vast reaches of the Indian Ocean.

Given the expanse of land and water that might need to be searched, the wreckage of the plane might take months — or longer — to find or might never be located. Establishing what happened with any degree of certainty will likely need key information including cockpit voice recordings from the plane's flight data recorders.

The search area now includes 11 countries the plane might have flown over, Malaysia's acting transport minister, Hishammuddin Hussein, said Sunday, adding that the number of countries involved in the operation had in-



AP photos

A foam plane and cards with personalized messages dedicated to people involved with the missing Malaysia Airlines jetliner are placed at the viewing gallery at Kuala Lumpur International Airport on Saturday in Sepang, Malaysia.



University students hold a candlelight vigil for plane passengers in Yangzhou, in eastern China's Jiangsu province.

creased to 25 from 14.

"The search was already a highly complex, multinational effort. It has now become even more difficult," he said at a news conference.

The search effort initially focused on the relatively shallow waters of the South China Sea and the Strait of Malacca, where the plane was first thought to be. Hishammuddin said he had asked governments to hand over sensitive radar and satellite data to try and help get a better idea of the plane's final movements.

"It is our hope with the new information, parties that can come forward and narrow the search to an area that is more feasible," he said.

Malaysia is leading the search for the plane and the investigation into its disappearance.

In the United States, Dan Pfeiffer, senior adviser to President Barack Obama, told NBC's "Meet the Press" that the FBI was supporting the criminal probe.

Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., who is

chairman of the House Homeland Security subcommittee on counterterrorism and intelligence, said on ABC's "This Week" that so far "there's nothing out there indicating it's terrorists."

Investigators are trying to answer these questions: If the two pilots were involved in the disappearance, were they working together or alone, or with one or more of the passengers or crew?

Did they fly the plane under duress or of their own volition? Did one or more of the passengers manage to break into the cockpit, or use the threat of violence to gain entry and then pilot the plane? And what possible motive could there be for flying off with the plane?

The number of countries now involved in the search has risen to 25.

Will missing plane prompt change in aviation system?

BY SCOTT MAYEROWITZ
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 has exposed wide gaps in how the world's airlines — and their regulators — operate. But experts warn this isn't likely to be one of those defining moments that lead to fundamental changes.

For financial and technological reasons, and because of issues tied to national sovereignty, the status quo is expected to prevail in the way passports are checked, aircraft are tracked at sea and searches are coordinated.

In an age of constant connectivity, it's almost inconceivable to lose a 209-foot-long airplane for more than a week, or be in the dark about what happened on board around the time it went missing.

The reality is that large portions of the globe don't have radar coverage. Over oceans, pilots fill in those gaps by radioing air traffic controllers at routine intervals with position updates. While planes record speed in the cockpit as well as speed, altitude, fuel flow and the positions of flaps, that information isn't shared with anyone on the ground. Crash investigators get access to the data on the recorders only after combing through the wreckage.

Numerous experts have said it is time to update tracking abilities and use satellite links to provide real-time feeds on the operation

of planes and conversations within the cockpit.

However, transmitting data by satellite from all 80,000 daily flights worldwide wouldn't be cheap. Airlines made an average of \$4.13 in profits per passenger last year and \$2.05 in 2012, according to International Air Transport Association, the industry's trade group. Any additional costs would eat into those slim profit margins.

Some experts say planes don't crash frequently enough — let alone disappear — to justify the cost. If such information were to be streamed live, there would be major concerns about privacy, said Robert Clifford, a personal injury lawyer in Chicago who has been involved in several aviation lawsuits.

"Once it's broadcast, the data from a plane would essentially be considered public access material — something that aircraft manufacturers, pilot unions, operators and even accident investigators don't want," Clifford said.

There's also a question of who would receive and control that data. There are concerns that an airline, planemaker or government worried about its reputation could meddle with the information.

"You can't assume that there would not be strong economic interests to tamper with information," said James E. Hall, former chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board.

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WORLD

China's Alibaba firm gears up for US IPO

HONG KONG — Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba said Sunday it has started the process to go public on a U.S. stock exchange in what is likely to be the world's biggest IPO this year.

The Alibaba Group's statement confirming plans for an initial public offering in New York ended months of speculation over where the company would list its shares after talks for a Hong Kong stock sale fell apart last year.

Analysts have estimated that an Alibaba IPO could raise up to \$15 billion and value the company at more than \$100 billion.

Nigerian navy destroys 260 illegal oil refineries

WARRI, Nigeria — The Nigerian navy said it has destroyed 260 illegal oil refineries and burned 100,000 tons of contraband fuel, but critics say the targeting of small-time criminals fails to confront the biggest culprits in oil thefts — the politically-connected criminal cartels who sell on the international market.

Similar missions in the past have failed to slow thefts valued at more than \$20 million per day on the world market. Shell Nigeria, the biggest operator in the West African nation, said it lost \$1 billion to oil thefts in 2013.

On Sunday, Shell confirmed that an undersea pipeline leak has forced the closure of its Forcados export terminal, a major installation with capacity to handle 400,000 barrels of crude per day.

Man held in Frank book vandalism in Tokyo

TOKYO — Police on Friday arrested a man on suspicion of tearing pages out of books related to Anne Frank at a Tokyo library.

More than 300 books related to the Holocaust victim, including "The Diary of a Young Girl," have been found vandalized recently at libraries across Japan's capital.

Tokyo police said the man, 36, sneaked into a library on Feb. 5 and ripped pages from 23 Frank-related books, including at least one copy of the diary. Some of the ripped pages were found in a plastic bag at an unidentified house in Tokyo.

Police said the suspect admitted to ripping the pages out of the books, but his motive was unclear. They didn't release the suspect's name.

Frank wrote her diary during the two years her family hid from the Nazis during World War II. She was 15 when she died in a concentration camp in 1945.

From The Associated Press



PHOTOS BY KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

A man inspects the site of a car bomb explosion on a commercial street in al-Ameen district in southeastern Baghdad on Sunday. A series of car bombs killed and wounded scores of people Saturday in Iraq's capital, authorities said.

Car bombs kill 19 people in Baghdad

BY SAMEER N. YACOB
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A series of car bomb attacks targeting commercial areas and a restaurant killed at least 19 people Saturday in Iraq's capital, Baghdad, authorities said.

Police officials said a car bomb went off at night in a commercial street in al-Ameen district in southeastern Baghdad, killing four people and wounding 13. Minutes later, police said another car bomb explosion near a falafel restaurant killed three people and wounded six in the capital's Qahira neighborhood.

A third car bomb exploded in a commercial street in western Baghdad, killing four people and wounding 14 others, police said. Later, a car bomb in a commercial area of Shula killed four people and wounded nine, police said.

In Baghdad's northern district of Hurriyah, a car bomb also exploded, killing four people and wounding 10, police said.

Health officials confirmed the casualty figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information to reporters.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks, but



Iraqis look at a crater caused by a car bomb explosion Saturday in al-Ameen district.

they bore the hallmarks of an al-Qaida breakout group that frequently uses car bombs and suicide attacks to target public areas in their bid to undermine confidence in the government.

Violence has escalated in Iraq during the past year. Last year, the country saw the highest death toll since the worst of the country's sectarian bloodletting began to subside in 2007, according to United Nations figures. The U.N. said violence killed 8,868 last year in Iraq.

S. Korea: North fires 18 rockets into the ocean

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea fired 18 short-range rockets into the sea off its east coast Sunday, South Korean officials said, in an apparent continuation of protests against ongoing U.S.-South Korean military drills.

Such short-range rocket tests are usually considered routine, as opposed to North Korean long-range rocket or nuclear tests, which are internationally condemned as provocations.

North Korea has conducted a string of similar short-range launches in recent weeks that have coincided with the annual military drills by allies Washington and Seoul.

North Korea says the drills are preparation for an invasion. The allies say the exercises, which last year prompted North Korean threats of nuclear war against the South and the United States, are routine and defensive in nature.

Outside analysts say the North is taking a softer stance toward

the U.S.-South Korean military drills this year because it wants better ties with the outside world to revive its struggling economy. North Korea's weekslong tirade of war rhetoric against Washington and Seoul last spring followed international condemnation of its third nuclear test, in February 2013.

South Korean Defense Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok said the type of rockets North Korea launched Sunday wasn't yet clear.

Earlier this month, Seoul said a North Korean artillery launch happened minutes before a Chinese commercial plane reportedly carrying 202 people flew in the same area.

Pyeongyang has said that its recent rocket drills are part of regular training and are mindful of international navigation.

The Korean Peninsula remains officially at war because the Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

Syrian rebels seek arms as conflict enters fourth year

dpa

CAIRO — The Syrian opposition called on allies Saturday to supply its forces with heavy weapons as the country's conflict was entering its fourth year.

"We renew our demand for friends of the Syrian people to keep their promises of providing sophisticated weapons," Ahmed al-Jarba, the president of the West-backed Syrian National Coalition, said in Istanbul.

He played down allies' fears that the arms might end up in the hands of radical rebels.

"The (opposition) Syrian Free Army is facing both gangs of extremists and the regime troops," he said.

He added that the Syrian people were facing a "barbaric invasion" from Iran and the Lebanese Hez-

bollah movement — key allies of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

The news comes one day after United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon announced that international mediator Lakhdar Brahimi is set to visit Iran to advance the Syrian peace process.

"Iran is one of the important regional countries, which can play an important role, including impressing upon the Syrian authorities to come to the Geneva conference in a more constructive way," Ban said in New York.

Peace talks between the Syrian regime and the opposition, held in January and February in Switzerland, ended in stalemate with each side blaming the other for the talks' failure.

No date has been set for a new round of negotiations.

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UKRAINE UNREST

Uncertainty grips Ukraine's military stationed in Crimea

By MIKE ECKEL
The Associated Press

PEREVALNYE, Ukraine — In the eastern reaches of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, witnesses report advanced Russian surface-to-air missiles being offloaded and readied for movement. At a base near the naval port of Sevastopol, an air force commander takes to YouTube to appeal for clear orders of engagement with the Russian forces who have occupied much of his base. In a naval base near regional capital Simferopol, a commander reports feeling like a hostage, and fearing what will come in the next few days.

On the eve of Sunday's referendum on whether the Black Sea peninsula should break away from Ukraine and join Russia, Crimeans of all ethnicities waited with deepening anguish and fear about the vote that at best, will yield months or years of uncertainty, and at worst, will spark war.

Among those facing the greatest and most fraught uncertainty were Ukraine's military forces on the peninsula, who have been hemmed in by heavily armed Russian troops and warned by the region's pro-Russian leader that they would be considered "illegal" if they didn't surrender.

With the new government in Kiev struggling to respond to a threatened Russian invasion in the east, to build international support and to stave off economic disaster, soldiers and sailors have

lamented openly that they don't know what they're supposed to be doing — and, more importantly, what they're going to do if shooting breaks out.

Russia effectively took control of Crimea, where it has a large naval base, late last month after Moscow-friendly President Viktor Yanukovich fled the country in the wake of months of protests. The Kremlin says he was the victim of a coup and refuses to recognize the authorities who took over.

The head of Crimea's unrecognized, Russian-backed government, Sergei Aksyonov, has said Ukrainian soldiers will be allowed to surrender peacefully, leave Crimea altogether or resign from the armed forces.

In a message on Twitter, he warned that Ukrainian units that refuse to swear allegiance to the new Crimean authorities after Sunday's referendum would be considered "illegal armed formations."

Ukrainian officials have said more than 20,000 Russian troops are in Crimea. Many are believed to be under the command of the Black Sea Fleet, which is based in Sevastopol under a lease deal with Ukraine.

Against that backdrop, Ukraine's outmatched armed forces have been stuck in the middle, harassed and blocked in bases by masked gunmen and Russian soldiers wearing no identifying emblems but often driving military trucks bearing Russian license plates.



IVAN SKRETAREV/AP

Ukrainian soldiers guard a gate to their military base in the village of Perevalne, outside Simferopol, Ukraine, on March 2.



ANDREW LUSOMOV/AP

A woman casts her ballot Sunday at a polling station during the Crimean referendum in Sevastopol, Ukraine.

Crimea votes on whether to secede from Ukraine

By JOHN-THOR DAHLBURG
The Associated Press

SIMFEROPOL, Ukraine — In a referendum watched closely around the world, residents in Ukraine's strategic Crimean Peninsula voted Sunday on whether to demand greater autonomy or to split off and seek to join Russia. The vote has been condemned as illegal by the United States and European countries.

The referendum comes two weeks after Russian-led forces seized control of Crimea, a predominantly ethnic Russian region on the Black Sea that hosts a key Russian naval base. Its residents say they fear the new Ukrainian government that took over when President Viktor Yanukovich fled to Russia last month will oppress them.

Ukraine's new prime minister insisted again Sunday that neither Ukraine nor the West will recognize the referendum, which they say is being conducted at gunpoint.

"Now, on the territory of the autonomous republic of Crimea under the stage direction of the

Russian Federation, a circus performance is underway: the so-called referendum." Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk told a government meeting. "Also taking part in the performance are 21,000 Russian troops, who with their guns are trying to prove the legality of the referendum."

Russia raised the stakes Saturday when its forces, backed by helicopter gunships and armored vehicles, took control of a Ukrainian village outside Crimea — the first military move beyond the peninsula of 2 million people. The Russian forces also took control of a nearby natural gas distribution station, claiming the need to prevent possible terrorist acts.

Serhiy Astakhov, a spokesman for Ukraine's Border Guard, told The Associated Press on Sunday that Ukrainian forces retook control of the village late Saturday after negotiations with the Russian forces, but the Russians still controlled the gas plant.

If the referendum passes, Russia faces the prospect of quick sanctions from Western nations. So far, however, Russian President Vladimir Putin has vigor-

ously resisted calls to pull back in Crimea. At the United Nations, Russia vetoed a Security Council resolution declaring the referendum illegal, and China, its ally, abstained in a sign of Moscow's isolation on the issue.

In Sevastopol, Crimea's key port and the site of the Russian naval base, more than 70 people surged into a polling station within the first 15 minutes of voting Sunday.

"Today is a holiday," said Vera Sverkunova, 66. Asked how she voted, she broke into a patriotic war song: "I want to go home to Russia. It's been so long since I've seen my mama."

"Today is an important day for all Crimea, Ukraine and Russia," said voter Manita Meshchina.

Speakers blared the city anthem up and down the streets, giving Sevastopol a feeling of a block party. But the military threat was clear — a Russian naval warship still blocked the port's outlet to the Black Sea, trapping Ukrainian boats. Under a disputed new lease, Russia pays Ukraine \$98 million per year in rent for the naval base.

European Union weighing next steps to take against Russia

By RAF CASERT
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The European Union is taking steps to increase sanctions against Russia over what many believe is a planned annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region, as Moscow has changed from a wary partner to a diplomatic adversary in the space of a few months.

Sunday's referendum in Crimea on secession has been called illegal by the EU and the U.S., and

EU foreign ministers will decide on Monday whether to impose asset freezes and visa sanctions and, if so, whom to target.

EU diplomats were working feverishly during the weekend to set up a list of Russian and Moscow-leaning officials from Ukraine who have been involved in pushing for the southern peninsula's secession and possible annexation.

Diplomats said member states arrived at weekend talks with different suggestions so a com-

mon list could be drawn up for Monday's meeting of the 28 foreign ministers to make a final decision.

"There must be a firm and unified response" at the meeting, said British Foreign Secretary William Hague. "The time has come for tougher restrictive measures to be adopted."

They likely would include military officials who ordered Ukrainian troops to leave their barracks in Crimea and others who were responsible for break-

away actions there. On the other hand, diplomats said they would shy away from economic operators at the moment.

Depending on developments in Moscow and Ukraine, further sanctions could follow during a two-day summit of EU leaders starting on Thursday.

"We will be — I am quite certain — ready for Monday morning," a senior EU diplomat said on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue. "This will be discussed by ministers in

order to reach a decision on that second stage of sanctions."

An EU summit last week suspended talks with Russia on a wide-ranging economic pact and a visa agreement.

On top of that, the EU could move quickly, possibly within a week, to sign the political chapters of a far-reaching association agreement with the provisional government in Kiev, underscoring its support for the new Ukraine government.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

4 accused of stealing inflatable duck

LA LAFAYETTE — Lafayette police have made two more arrests in the theft of a 14-foot inflatable duck belonging to the Boys and Girls Club of Acadiana.

The giant yellow inflatable duck sporting black sunshades and a bill that looks like big red lips went missing Feb. 27. It has since been returned.

Police said while the suspects avoided most security and traffic cameras, one surveillance picture showed a four-door Chevy Silverado with the inflatable duck in the bed.

Lafayette Police Cpl. Paul Mouton said in a statement that Zachary Paul Quibodeaux, of Lafayette, and Tre Michael Leon, of Rayne, were arrested Thursday, each on one count of felony theft.

Two others — Kyle Cormier and Garcon Cormier — were arrested March 5 on one count each of felony theft.

Police find woman in trash compactor

AL VESTAVIA HILLS — Police in a Birmingham suburb are investigating after a woman was found in a trash compactor.

Vestavia Hills police Lt. Brian Gillum said the woman was found in the device around 9 p.m. Friday. Her husband had reported her missing earlier in the day.

Gillum told WBRC-TV that the woman was conscious and talking with police officers before she was taken to UAB Hospital.

Police said they were trying to determine how she ended up in the trash compactor.

A police officer had spotted her SUV, a white Jeep Cherokee, in a parking lot of the Colonial Center on Blue Lake Drive. Police dogs were used to search the area and found her in the trash compactor.

Snake hoarder charged with animal abuse

CA SANTA ANA — A California teacher who was arrested two months ago for hoarding more than 400 snakes in his Orange County home has been charged with felony animal abuse.

The district attorney said Friday that William Frederick Buchman, 53, will make a first court appearance on Monday.

Buchman was arrested Jan. 29 after neighbors complained about a foul smell coming from his home in Santa Ana.

Authorities found more than 400 ball pythons in his home, stacked in bins that were on floor-to-ceiling shelves. Prosecutors say 240 of the snakes were already dead.

Food pantries spring up on college campuses

NY STONY BROOK — With the cost of a public education up 27 percent in the past five years, some students are being forced to choose between eating and learning.

THE CENSUS

\$56B

such as grooming, boarding and pet-sitting.

The record amount of money that Americans spent on their pets last year, according to the American Pet Products Association. The biggest part of spending in 2013 — \$21.57 billion — went for food, a lot of it the more expensive, specialty grub. Other spending included \$14.37 billion for veterinary care; \$13.14 billion for supplies and over-the-counter medicines; \$2.23 billion for live animal purchases; and \$4.41 billion for other services



SAN DIEGO ZOO SAFARI PARK/AP

A hairy bundle of joy

San Diego Zoo Safari Park keeper Jennifer Minichino and veterinarian Dr. Jack Allen tend to a baby girl gorilla who was born at the zoo after an emergency cesarean section procedure Wednesday. The baby's mother, Imani, had never given birth and was in distress after going into labor. Wednesday's delivery marked the 17th gorilla born at the zoo.

That's why many colleges have established their own food pantries. A group called the College and University Food Bank Alliance says about 50 member food banks have sprung up on campuses across the country, most of them in the last few years.

Stony Brook University on Long Island started a food pantry last fall, handing out bags of staples such as pasta, fruit, vegetables, tuna and breakfast bars.

Food bank officials say the profiles of recipients vary from students who have opted for cheaper meal plans to people dealing with unexpected hardships to struggling children while studying to pay tuition.

Wild turkey invasion appearing to ebb

UT MANTUA — It's gotten a little quiet out there.

Too quiet.

The influx of wild turkeys in this town seems to have dissipated in recent days from the flock that numbered as many as 50, thronging bird feeders and hay stacks this winter.

Warmer temperatures have apparently eased their need. Plus people have stopped filling their bird feeders here because of the intruders.

Police Chief Mike Johnson worries they may be already nesting. "Oh, good Lord," he said of the wild turkey eggs' 25-day gestation, with clutches of 10 or more eggs.

"At first when they were a novelty people were feeding them, chumming them in," said Johnson, also mayor of this town of about 800. "But I think we've gotten over that desire."

The previous winter they numbered only a dozen or so.

Pastor impersonator gets prison for fraud

TX HOUSTON — A Houston man who portrayed himself as a pastor running a religious-themed investment program has been sentenced to nearly six years in prison for fraud.

A federal judge in Houston on Friday sentenced Samuel Ray Palasota, 53, in what prosecutors call a \$1 million Ponzi scheme. A jury in October convicted Palasota of 24 counts of mail and wire fraud. Investigators said the real estate scam that Palasota called "The Maker's Resources" initially cost a Mississippi woman at least \$650,000. Authorities say Palasota then enticed the woman into selling her home and giving him those funds, too.

Authorities say Palasota used the woman's money to buy himself luxury cars, clothing and jewelry.

Group to end honor flights for veterans

OH TOLEDO — An organization in northwest Ohio that has been taking veterans on free flights to Washington to see the war memorials since 2008 will end its run after this summer.

Honor Flight Northwest Ohio will make four more flights this year, with its last one in September.

"We feel that we have accomplished our mission," said David Chilson, an Honor Flight spokesman. "We wanted to go out on a positive note instead of tapering off and kind of gradually doing fewer and fewer flights."

The group's leaders believe nearly all of the Toledo area's World War II veterans who wanted to go on the flights have done so.

From wire reports

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OPINION

Democrats likely to lose control of Senate

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

This year was always going to be a difficult one for Democrats, as they battle to keep their five-seat majority in the Senate. But in recent months, the political landscape has grown bleaker.

Let's start with the basics: Democrats have more seats at risk this year than Republicans do. Of the 36 Senate seats up for election (including three midterm vacancies), 21 are held by Democrats. And seven of those Democratic seats are in Republican-leaning "red states" that Mitt Romney won in 2012: Alaska, Arkansas, Louisiana, Montana, North Carolina, South Dakota and West Virginia.

The stakes are enormous. If Republicans take control of the Senate and keep the House of Representatives, they'll be able to pass parts of their conservative agenda that have been blocked until now. President Barack Obama will still have veto power, but he'll have to spend his last two years in office stuck on defense.

Since the presidential election of 2012, the country's mood has remained sour. The sluggish economic recovery has convinced most Americans that we're still stuck in a recession, no matter what the economists say. Obama's job approval has slumped to record lows, thanks largely to the disastrous launch of his health care plan. That makes 2014 a bad year to be an incumbent — especially a Democratic incumbent.

Compounding Democrats' worries, Republicans are having a good year recruiting top-tier Senate candidates in both blue and red states. In Colorado, GOP Rep. Cory Gardner has turned Democratic Sen. Mark Udall's once-expected re-election into a race to watch. In New Hampshire, former Sen. Scott Brown, R-Mass., moved north this month and announced his desire to become Sen. Scott Brown, R-N.H.

Charlie Cook, dean of Washington's congressional election forecasters, pronounced the Democrats' challenges "grimly."

And the mood wasn't improved by the victory last week of Republican David Joly, who beat Democrat Alex Sink in a special election in Florida's Gulf Coast region for a vacant seat in the House of Representatives.

In Florida, Democrats thought they had a strong chance; Obama had carried the district narrowly in 2012, and Sink was a practiced campaigner. The Democratic campaign even outspent the GOP. But the untended Republican candidate won by al-



Democratic Sens. Mary Landrieu, of Louisiana, Mark Pryor, of Arkansas, and Kay Hagan, of North Carolina, voted for Obamacare and are up for re-election this year.

most 2 percent.

What happened? Democratic voters didn't show up. Only 53 percent as many ballots were cast in the district last week as in the presidential election of 2012. Among those voters, Sink's pollster, Geoff Garin, estimated that Republicans had a 13 percent advantage in turnout — meaning his candidate did well by keeping the race close at all.

The question, of course, is why so many Republicans turned out and why so few Democrats did. The answer among strategists on both sides was: Obamacare. But not in the sense that the health care law is so unpopular that Democrats are doomed; in fact, as more people sign up for health coverage, polls suggest that Obamacare is a little less toxic now than it was last fall.

Instead, the problem is that a high-decibel debate over Obamacare has the effect of prompting conservatives to come out and vote, but not liberals. "The [Affordable Care Act] is an energizing issue for Republicans," Garin noted; it doesn't produce the same response among Democrats.

Can Democrats change that? Some, like Sen. Clinton aide Paul Begala, argue that Democratic candidates need to stop being apologetic about the program's flaws and go on the offensive, accusing Republicans of trying to rob voters of the law's protections. But others, including strategist Mark Mellman, are skeptical. "I don't think there's a particularly strong mobilizing issue," Mellman told me.

Democrats will try to broaden the debate beyond Obamacare and the pace of economic growth to focus on issues of fairness: a higher minimum wage, stronger

overtime pay regulations, pay equity for women. If Democratic Sen. Mark Pryor wins his tough race for re-election in increasingly conservative Arkansas, for example, it may be thanks to a state minimum wage initiative that could mobilize Democratic voters there.

The Democrats will keep Obama away from Senate candidates in red states, but expect former President Clinton to do plenty of campaigning in the heartland, where he's popular among independents as well as Democrats.

They'll also mount an unprecedented \$60 million field operation designed to find Democratic voters and prod them to vote. That part of the campaign, modeled on Obama's data-heavy operation in 2012, is the initiative that has political professionals most intrigued, since it's never before been attempted at that scale in a midterm election.

And if all else fails, the Democrats will hope that Republicans make the same mistake they made in Senate elections in 2010 and 2012, nominating far-right tea party candidates who cost them elections they might otherwise have won. But playing for flawed opponents is a weak reed on which to rest a strategy.

Cook's current projection is that Republicans are likely to gain between four and six seats in November — and six is exactly the number the GOP needs to win a majority in the Senate. Unless the economy and Obamacare look better to voters seven months from now, don't be surprised to see the GOP do even better than that.

Doyle McManus is in Los Angeles Times columnist.

US can't let Gulf states bully Qatar into submission

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette editorial

U.S. relations with the monarchies of the Persian Gulf are complicated enough, but now three of them — Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, joined by Egypt, another Sunni Muslim nation — have fallen out with Qatar, probably the most progressive of the group now that

Egypt is under military rule.

The United States has close military relations with all five nations and important bases in four of them, including the headquarters of the U.S. 5th Fleet in Bahrain, a nation troubled by stormy relations between its Sunni rulers and its Shiite-majority population.

Qatar, an emirate with 2 million people and a gross domestic product of \$182 billion, has taken a relatively progressive and modern approach to governing the modern world. For 18 years it has paid the bills and taken the heat from other Arab states for the television news outlet al-Jazeera, which provides reasonably balanced coverage of events in the Middle East and has expanded its reach to U.S. viewers. Qatar is also home, in Doha, to a branch campus of Carnegie Mellon University.

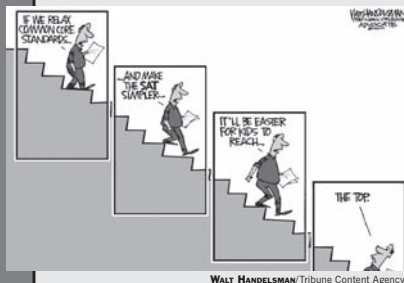
Qatar provided funding and military aid to Libyan rebels who — with U.S., British and French help — overthrew Moammar Gadhafi, another Sunni dictator, in 2011.

What appears to have been the final straw for Qatar's nervous fellow Sunni rulers was its support of Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi, the leader of the Muslim Brotherhood in that country. He was elected in 2012, overthrown the next year in a military coup and put in jail. Qatar had joined with its other Persian Gulf Sunni states in supporting — unsuccessfully — Syrian rebels seeking to oust President Bashar Assad. It has also maintained decent ties with Shiite Iran, which the others fear.

Life will become more difficult for Qatar and its ruler, Emir Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, 33, now that Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates have declared them to have departed from the hallowed way. Life in the Middle East will also become more complicated for the United States, in seeking to maintain its bases. It cannot abandon Qatar, and yet it will need to maintain good relations with the other Gulf monarchs. It will not be an easy row to hoe.

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



FACES

Broadcast booze

TV shows get into the wine, beer biz

BY MICHELLE LOCKE
The Associated Press

Mr. Carson, bring me my wine!
And you, too, Mr. Spock.
In what is perhaps the strongest evidence yet of wine's power to unite, fans of upper-crusty period drama "Downton Abbey," sci-fi classic "Star Trek" and the proudly down-home show "Duck Dynasty" can all buy wines bottled under license to their favorite show.

Must-drink TV?
The Downton Abbey wines, a white and a red (retailing at \$16.99), come from Wines That Rock, a company that makes wine under the names of rock groups, including the Rolling Stones. They're made by Dulong Grand Vins, a Bordeaux winery, which makes sense since the show has featured a number of wines from that famous French wine region.

Wine has been a big part of the British series, with butler Mr. Carson taking great pains over which wines to serve with dinner. One of the wines served at the big dinner party in the second episode of the fourth season was a 1919 Chateau Couteau, a big thrill for the family that now owns the southern Bordeaux winery (which produces a well-regarded dessert wine).

Producers of the show, who are known for their faithful attention to detail, approached the family and asked for permission to use the name, then made a prop bottle to use in filming. "We were thrilled," says Aline Baly, co-owner and director of marketing and communications for Chateau Couteau.

Meanwhile, "Duck Dynasty," an A&E show about a family business that makes products for duck hunters, primarily a duck call, might not seem such a seamless fit for the wine world.



More on wine online

- **Downton Abbey wines:** downtonabbeywine.com
- **Duck Commander wines:** tinyurl.com/lgplyn9
- **Star Trek wines:** vinport.com/startrek
- **Game of Thrones beer:** tinyurl.com/q3vz2j

But Bob Torkelson, chief operating officer of Trinchero Family Estates, the Napa Valley winery that makes the Duck Commander wines, says the Trincheros and the Robertsons (the Louisiana family featured on the show) have a lot in common in terms of running family businesses.

The Robertsons met the Trincheros after asking around for recommendations on wineries. Willie and Korie Robertson have visited the winery and contributed to decisions on blending and packaging. The wines, released late last year and retailing for about \$10, are available in a red blend, a chardonnay and a pink moscato; a pinot grigio also is planned. Sales of the wine have been robust, passing 100,000 cases in about four months.

And what of "Star Trek"? Is there a



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW MEAD/AP

Wines, including Downton Abbey, above, and Duck Commander, left, are just two of the TV show-related alcoholic offerings on the market.

space-wine continuum?

Yes, actually, there is, says Peter Messa, spokesman for Vinport which handles marketing for the Star Trek wines.

"Star Trek has many wine references in it, the most famous probably being Klingon bloodwine," he notes. In fact, food and drink plays a big part in the series, with toasts often raised to celebrate interspecies diplomacy and other milestones.

The Star Trek wines are based on the original series. The wines feature labels

based on poster art by Juan Ortiz, who was commissioned by CBS to make posters of the iconic series.

The wine was released under three labels commemorating the shows — Trouble with Tribbles, Mirror, Mirror and City on the Edge of Forever.

Not a Trekkie? Or a fan of mansions or malls? Not a problem. For you, there's a "Game of Thrones" beer from a partnership between HBO and Brewery Ommegang in New York — Take the Black Stout.

Tina Fey comments on 'Mean Girls' reunion talk, says it won't be a movie

From wire reports

Tina Fey is working on a "Mean Girls" reunion of sorts, but sadly it won't be in the form of another movie.

The 2004 comedy, which will celebrate its 10-year anniversary in April, was adapted by Fey from Rosalind Wiseman's 2002 book "Queen Bees and Wannabes: Helping Your Daughter Survive Cliques, Gossip, Boyfriends, and Other Realities of Adolescence."

The cult classic starred a pre-rehab Lindsay Lohan, now 27, pre-"Notebook" Rachel McAdams, now 35, and the troupe of Plastics — pre-"Veronica Mars" Amanda Seyfried and post-"Party of Five"

Lacey Chabert. Fey and her longtime pal Amy Poehler also appear in the film.

News of a reunion to commemorate the milestone has been buzzing since Fey and Lohan appeared on the first episode of Jimmy Fallon's "Tonight Show" in February. Lohan took the story one step further last week when she told Fallon that the reunion was on.

Doing the press rounds for her latest comedy, "Muppets Most Wanted," Fey addressed the rumors and her role in starting them. "Yeah, I saw her at the first episode of the 'Tonight Show.' We did that bit with Jimmy, and I said to her, 'Oh, I think someone may call us about doing some kind of

reunion because next month is the 10th anniversary of the movie,'" Fey told Access Hollywood in a piece published March 11.

The "Saturday Night Live" alum said that, realistically, the get-together would just be a panel discussion of some sort, "not an actual movie."

Shatner's Twitter exit a joke with pal Bergeron

Tom Bergeron is leaving "America's Funniest Home Videos" at the end of next season, but William Shatner is not quitting Twitter.

The two became linked when Bergeron announced last week

that he would step down as host of the show next year. That prompted Shatner to tweet that he was inspired by Bergeron to tweet no more. But that was only a shared joke with his pal Bergeron, according to Shatner's publicist, Putnam & Smith. The proof Shatner is still tweeting is online.

Bergeron, however, is serious about leaving "America's Funniest Home Videos," spokeswoman Alejandra Cristina said.

Other news

■ The FX network says the hit comedy "Louie" is returning for its fourth season May 5 after a hiatus of 19 months.

■ The family of legendary voice-over artist Hal Douglas says died at his northern Virginia home on March 7. He was 89. Douglas' sonorous delivery starred in trailers for thousands of movies — including "Philadelphia" and "Meet the Parents" — and documentaries.

■ Adventurous and newsmaking author and reporter Joe McGinniss died Monday at age 71 in Worcester, Mass. McGinniss skewered the marketing of Richard Nixon in "The Selling of the President 1968" and tracked his personal journey from sympathizer to scourge of convicted killer Jeffrey MacDonald in the blockbuster "Fatal Vision."

SCIENCE AND MEDICINE



Elegant gliders

Researchers tackle mystery of how some snakes can fly

By MEERI KIM

Special to The Washington Post

An ornate, lime-green snake hangs from a branch. Upon spotting a predator, it suddenly propels itself into the air, flattening and wiggling its body until safely landing in a faraway tree.

Flying snakes sound like creatures from a bad B movie, but these serpents are elegant gliders that have evolved a special skill that sets them apart. In two new studies, engineers have used simulations to try to decipher how the wingless reptile manages to remain airborne despite its lack of flight appendages.

While in the air, the snakes transform their cross-sectional shape, splaying their ribs and flattening their bodies. Through computational and physical modeling, researchers have discovered that this modified shape helps them become more aerodynamic and allows vortices of air above their bodies to suction them upward.

"Little by little, we built a theory about how the snakes are interacting with the air to generate very large lift forces," said aeronautical engineer Lorena Barba, of George Washington University, who authored a study published in *Physics of Fluids* on March 4.

In a tornado, the low-pressure region is in the center, or eye. Similarly, researchers found areas of low pressure that form on top of the snake's body, creating a small amount of suction and helping to generate

lift. In collaboration with flying-snake expert Jake Socha, of Virginia Tech, Barba was able to visualize these swirls of air in a complex computer air-flow simulation.

An earlier study by Socha, published in the *Journal of Experimental Biology* in January, also investigated the flattened shape by using a 3-D printed snake model submerged in a tank of flowing water. Both experiments found that, surprisingly, the reptile has an excellent capacity to generate propelling flight forces, or lift.

They are called "flying snakes," but to be more precise, they are masters of the glide. Found in the lowland rainforests of Southeast and South Asia, flying snakes are fairly small creatures, growing to lengths of only a few feet and about the diameter of a lipstick. But upon jumping from a tall tree, say 30 feet, they can reach a horizontal distance of 10 times their body length.

As a biomechanist, Socha works at the intersection of biology and physics, studying flying snakes for almost 20 years. He noticed that so much was known about

how birds fly, but so little work had been done on serpent flight despite the creature first being recognized in the late 1800s.

"Most of the early writing was natural history-type notes, where some British scientist in Southeast Asia happens to see one go through his tea garden," Socha said. "I tried to whack it with a stick and missed it!"

The glide starts with a small jump, after which the snake extends itself out to full body length. It gains speed as it sharply drops; then midflight, its ribs splay apart and cause the normally circular body to flatten. It makes an S shape and starts to undulate. Eventually, the flight path becomes more horizontal as it glides forward.

In earlier experiments, Socha filmed snakes diving off tree branches using multiple cameras positioned at different angles in order to capture an accurate description of their geometry during flight. Using that data, he created an idealized 3-D model of the snake's flattened body, which formed the basis for Barba's com-

puter simulations and his physical fluid-flow model.

"These shapes are very efficient at generating lift when they are positioned at high angles of attack," Barba said, referring to the angle of the flat surface with respect to the body's trajectory in the air. "Normally, an airplane wing operates at very low angles."

Socha has found that serpents tend to maintain angles of attack of about 20 to 40 degrees. Also, some portions of the snake's body are perpendicular to the trajectory they are moving in, so they become like little sections of a wing. They hit the wind sideways, allowing for more lift.

"If the cross-section was round, there's no way it would glide at all, would be our guess," he said.

So shape matters, but another question lingers: Why do the snakes undulate during flight?

"When the snake glides, it is actually moving pretty dramatically in the air," Socha said, noting that other gliders hold their bodies virtually still. "It looks like it's swimming through the air."

Similar to laying a jump rope on the floor and shifting it rhythmically up and down from one end, the back-and-forth motion of the snake's head causes large waves that propagate down the body. The two researchers plan to tackle what kind of flight contribution this motion has — a much more difficult task, Socha said.

"We have not solved the mystery of how snakes fly," he said. "At this point, we have one piece of the puzzle."

‘We have not solved the mystery of how snakes fly. At this point, we have one piece of the puzzle.’

Jake Socha

Virginia Tech expert on flying snakes

NATION

Desert storm



Off-roaders ride past the historic White House Saloon, where many riders meet for lunch, in Randsburg, Calif., in May. Each weekend, dozens of such vehicles swarm the Mojave desert town where gold was discovered in the late 1890s.

Below, from left: An off-road vehicle on a trail in the hills above Randsburg. Ryan Abbatoye, a guide with Chris Haines Motorcycle/UTV Offroading Adventure Co., leads a group of off-roaders through the open Mojave desert. Amy Tassio, left, warms by the campfire as Bill Tassio, right, roasts a marshmallow with his daughter, Lyla Tassio, while her sister, Tatum, center, watches the fire while camping in the desert with friends. Off-roading above Randsburg.

PHOTOS BY ALLEN J. SCHABEN, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT





Off-roaders bring screaming engines, economic boost to Mojave ghost town

BY CHARLES FLEMING
Los Angeles Times

IN RANDBURG, Calif. in 1899, this gold-rich Mojave Desert town had a population of 3,500 and boasted churches, bordellos, saloons, hotels, a 1,000-seat opera house and a skating rink.

When the mines played out, the miners moved on — and left behind boarded-up squatters' cabins, open shafts and the rusting hulks of mining equipment, preserved for posterity in the dry desert air.

Along Randsburg's sun-baked main street, vintage storefronts — a barber shop, a store advertising pickles and relishes, a shop that vulcanizes tires — faded to gray like an abandoned Western movie set.

A sign in front of the fire station says, "In case of fire, be calm. Yell loud." Another, in front of a shuttered antique store, says, "Hopen For Business."

On a Friday afternoon, the traffic consists of a couple of quails, a jack rabbit, maybe a desert tortoise or a tumbleweed.

By midday Saturday, though, the town is swarming. Hundreds of dirt bikers roar into town, dressed in body armor, heavy boots and helmets, their bikes' knobby tires raising clouds of silty dust behind them.

They aren't in town for a motorcycle race, or a movie shoot, or a rumble. They're not looking for trouble. They've come for a bowl of chili at the White House Saloon, a shot of bourbon at The Joint or a banana split at the Randsburg General Store's 100-year-old soda fountain.

■ ■ ■

Help the economy? They are the economy," said Jim Veach, who owns the White House Saloon. "Without them, I'd be out of business."

Saturday midnight finds professional motorcycle rider-turned-unlikely hotelier Goat Breker standing around a fire pit, watching his guests drink and listening to tall tales about their motorcycle exploits.

Sunday morning finds the 54-year-old standing over a griddle, frying bacon and eggs for their breakfast and helping them work through their hangovers.

Rangy and burnt by years in the sun, the shy, gravel-voiced Breker doesn't smoke or drink, chastened by spending his childhood watching his father and two older brothers battle with booze and drugs — the brothers who took away his birth name of Todd and named him Goat.

Motorcycles saved him. "That's what kept me off drugs and alcohol," he said. "I saw what it did to my brothers. I knew I had it in me, too."

Before he bought the former Cottage Hotel at the high end of Randsburg's main drag and turned it into Goat's Sky Ranch, he'd been a pilot, a fireman, a boxer, a juggler, a professional drummer. He had multiple motocross champi-

onships under his belt — and quit when he'd had enough.

"I broke my hip. I broke my neck. I had a couple of surgeries," he recalled. "I was lucky I never had anything serious happen to me."

Out of racing, he worked as an instructor at a school for the deaf, owned and managed the famed Perris Raceway motocross track and had his own custom sunglass company.

One day his father said to him: "You can afford to retire. Are you going to wait until you have cancer?"

So, in 2005, Breker closed down the sunglass business, liquidated his holdings and moved to Randsburg.

He knew the town from the 1960s, when his father used to race desert events out of nearby Trona. Since then, he'd visited Randsburg to see an old friend, veteran motorcycle elder Jim Cooke, who like Goat's father had raced motocross and desert in the 1960s and 1970s.

Breker was already known in the Mojave Desert for his racing past.

Dave McGachan, who owns a shop in town called Motohelp, calls him "a legend." Pam Keiser, who owns the General Store, says, "Goat is a celebrity — one of the greatest of all time."

When Goat learned that the house next door to Cooke's was for sale, he bought it, fixed it up and

whose family, she said, came to the Mojave Desert in 1822, then discovered gold and helped build the town that became Randsburg.

Scrappy, a tall, dark-eyed woman who wears her dark hair in a long braid, describes her relationship with Breker as "best friends," and says, "We don't believe in marriage."

Like the rest of Randsburg, Breker depends almost exclusively on the off-road trade.

On weekends he and the partner, the legendary off-roader and adventure guide Chris Haines, run group tours, leading packs of enthusiasts on motorcycles and Arctic Cat ROVs on two-day open desert runs to Las Vegas. During the week, they train military personnel in how to use off-road vehicles to launch assaults in the deep sand, using night goggles to navigate the narrow canyons carved into the surrounding desert.

Some of the townfolk have mixed feelings about Breker and his booming business. They complain that his guests go on his tours, and eat and sleep at his bed and breakfast, but don't patronize the town's businesses.

"He's pretty isolated," one said, asking that he and his business not be named. "His guests never leave Sky Ranch."

But few dispute that there's new life in this tired old town.



Goat Breker, a former motocross champion-turned-hotelier and desert off-road guide, takes a lunch break at his Goat's Sky Ranch. Like the rest of Randsburg, Breker relies on business from off-roaders.

brought his dad to live with him. Then he bought another cabin for his friends. When the Cottage Hotel came onto the market in 2009, Breker made an offer.

"I bought it for a girl, for her to have something to do," he said. "Turns out she didn't want anything to do. So she's gone, and I'm still here."

During the cool months of the year — the period from Memorial Day to Labor Day is so hot that Randsburg is a ghost town even on weekends — the hotel is full, booked by visitors who pay \$85 for a simple, rustic room, or \$125 to \$185 for a furnished cabin.

Managing the Sky Ranch with Breker is Scrappy — a full name Linda Arzuff — a youthful mother of five and grandmother of two

On an average weekend, the Randsburg population can swell from 69 to more than 2,000 — and double that on Easter or Thanksgiving weekend — as the bikers ride in from campsites at Jawbone Canyon or California City.

Some of the riders, mostly men, are accompanied by wives and families driving ATVs, ROVs, dune buggies or Jeeps. The visitors poke around the town's dozen antique stores, pose for pictures in front of the two century-old churches, or pretend to lock themselves up in the old city jail.

"People who haven't been here in a while ask me what happened," said Motohelp owner McGachan. "I tell them, 'It's all Goat. He cleaned this place up.'"



National temperature extremes
 Hi: Sat., 92, Thermal, Calif., Death Valley, Calif. and Lake Forecast, Calif.
 Lo: Sat., -15, Crane Lake, Minn.

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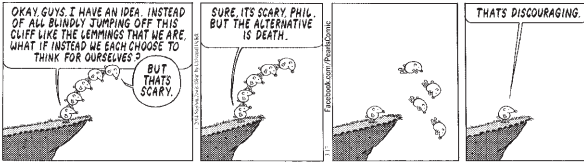
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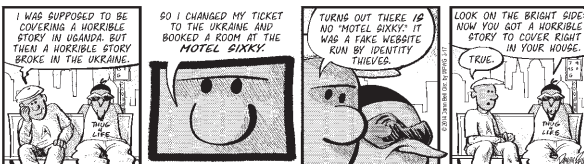
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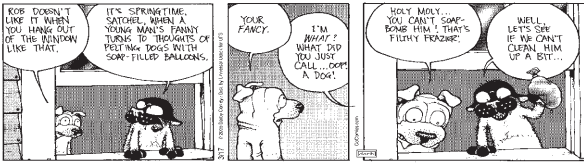
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13				14	
15					16				17	
			18				19		20	
21	22	23					24			
25				26		27		28		29
31		32		33		34		35		
36				37		38		39		40
		41			42		43		44	
45	46						47			
				49		50			51	52
54					55				56	
57					58				59	

ACROSS

- Possesses
- Synthetic fabric
- Hot tub
- Sort
- Bush successor
- Cribbage scorer
- Large triangular sail
- Anger
- Worms holder?
- Mae (government lender)
- Still in stock
- Slightly
- Soak (up)
- Pooch
- "moi, le deluge"
- Eastern potentate
- Pal of Wynden and Blynken
- Location
- Jeans material
- Lousy
- Transmit electronically
- Celebrity
- In a huge way
- 1962 John Wayne movie
- Squid squirt
- Chopper
- Washer feature
- Way (Abbr.)
- Therefore
- "Wham!"
- Donkey

DOWN

- Oppositionists
- Nay canceler
- Alaskan city
- Bachelorettes?
- Sailor
- List-ending abbr.
- Alluring, for one
- Tackle the slopes
- 3 Beattles' meter maid
- "Mona Lisa" painter
- Strand
- Tibetan beast
- Last Greek letter
- Tokyo airport
- Sea spray
- "Frasier" actress Gilpin
- Screenwriter James
- Sgt., for one
- Siestas
- Secondhand
- Alaskan city
- Bachelorettes?
- Sailor
- List-ending abbr.
- 3 Beattles' meter maid
- "Mona Lisa" painter
- Actress Mason
- Takes steps?
- Mature
- Firmament
- "Mary — little lamb ..."
- Pivot line
- Bankbook abbr.
- Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
- Powell co-star
- Ram's master

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	U	P	S	P	A	S	C	O	K	E
A	T	E	M	I	C	H	A	R	I	D
S	A	P	A	N	N	E	D	E	L	E
T	H	E	B	L	U	E	L	A	G	O
			A	L	P	L	I	E		
J	E	A	N	S	R	A	M	A	B	E
A	V	I	D	D	O	C	P	R	I	G
M	A	D	P	E	Z	G	U	M	B	O
			F	O	R	S	I	R		
B	L	U	E	I	V	I	C	A	R	T
L	A	N	E	I	M	I	N	A	X	E
O	V	I	D	S	C	O	T	O	I	L
B	A	T	S	H	A	N	S	S	T	Y

3-17

CRYPTOQUIP

K R G Y E Z P F X B U K E A V T
Y A G Y E A K N X N T Y E A V Y A ' R
V X S T A X Y V B P T I F B K E
U X U B G Y A K X E : I T Y F - S B Z Y .
Saturday's Cryptquip: THE AVIATOR HAD
PACKED ON SEVERAL EXTRA POUNDS, SO
SOMEONE EXCLAIMED, "THE PILOT THICKENS!"
Today's Cryptquip Clue: A equals T

Busch wins record 16th race on Bristol track

Ricciardo's disqualification meant Kevin Magnussen was promoted to second in his debut race, ahead of his McLaren teammate Jenson Button, giving the team a bright start to the season and the lead in the constructors' championship after a very disappointing 2013.

Shawn Langdon led in Top Fuel, Dave Connolly topped the Pro Stock field and Michael Ray was the fastest in Pro Stock Motorcycle. Langdon improved his time with a 3.776 at 320.58, Connolly had a 6.476 at 213.98, Ray finished at 6.793 at 197.74 on a Buell.

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SCOREBOARD

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Golf

Valspar Championship
Saturday
At Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club,
Copperhead Course
Palm Harbor, Fla.
Purse: \$5.7 million
Yardage: 7,340; Par: 71
Third Round

Robert Garrigus	69-66-70-205	-8
Kevin Na	70-68-68-206	-7
John Senden	72-71-64-207	-6
Justin Rose	71-69-69-208	-5
Bret Gorton	72-74-69-209	-4
Charley Hoffman	70-72-67-209	-4
Scott Langley	71-68-69-209	-4
Luke Donald	72-72-69-210	-3
Jason Day	71-69-69-210	-3
Matteo Manassero	69-70-71-210	-3
George McNeill	73-71-67-211	-2
David Foster, Jr.	73-74-67-211	-2
Will MacKenzie	73-70-68-211	-2
David Hearn	70-68-71-211	-2
Freddie Jacobsen	70-71-70-211	-2
David Hearn	70-70-71-211	-2
Jim Furyk	71-69-71-211	-2
Matt Every	68-71-72-211	-2

Toshiba Classic

Champions Tour
Saturday
At Newport Beach Country Club
Newport Beach, Calif.
Purse: \$1.75 million
Yardage: 6,584; Par: 71
Second Round

Bernhard Langer	63-65-129	-13
Kenny Perry	66-65-131	-11
Chien Shou Lu	66-65-131	-11
Arnoldus S. Bentley, Jr.	66-64-132	-10
Esteban Toledo	67-65-132	-10
Jeff Cupples	67-65-132	-10
Jeff Cupples	67-65-132	-10

College hockey

Saturday's scores

EAST	
Penn St. 4, Ohio State 2	
MIDWEST	
Wisconsin 4, Michigan State 2	
Michigan 6, Minnesota 2	
TOURNAMENTS	
Atlantic Hockey (Quarterfinals)	
Mercherych 4, Holy Cross 1	
Denver 2, Nebraska-Omaha 0	
Morris 3, UConn 2	
Niagara 4, Air Force 0	
ECAC	
Union (NY) 4, Dartmouth 2	
Colgate 5, St. Lawrence 3	
Clarkson 5, Yale 1	
Clarkson 4, Cornell 1	
Hockey East	
Boston College 4, Maine 2	
Vermont 3, Mass.-Lowell 2	
Clarkson 4, Maine 2	
Northeastern 5, New Hampshire 4, OT	
NCHC	
W. Michigan 4, Minn.-Duluth 3	
Denver 2, Michigan Tech 2	
Colorado College 2, North Dakota 2, OT	
Minn. (Ohio) 4, St. 1	
WCHA	
Quarterfinals	
Bowling Green 5, Michigan Tech 3	
Ferris St. 3, Bemidji 1, 2 OT	
St. (Mankato) 5, Michigan 4, OT	

Deals

Saturday's transactions

BASKETBALL	
National Basketball Association	
BROOKLYN NETS - Signed F Jason Collins for the remainder of the season.	
MAVERICKS - Recalled G Shane Larkin from Texas (NBADL).	
FOOTBALL	
National Football League	
BUFFALO BILLS - Signed S Brandon Spikes and RB Anthony Dixon.	
CLEVELAND BROWNS - Agreed to terms with RB Ben Tate.	
GREEN BAY PACKERS - Signed DE Julius M. Williams.	
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS - Signed DB Darren Brown.	
OAKLAND RAIDERS - Re-signed RB Darren McFadden.	
WASHINGTON REDSKINS - Signed CB Tracy Porter.	
HOCKEY	
National Hockey League	
BUFFALO SABRES - Signed D Rasmus Ristolainen from Rochester (AHL) on an emergency basis.	
NEW YORK ISLANDERS - Agreed to terms with D Adam Pelech on a three-year, entry-level contract.	

College basketball

Men's Div. II Tournament

First Round
Saturday, March 15
New Haven, Conn.
Saint Anselm 73, New Haven 57
Southern Connecticut State 89, Bridgeport 73
Franklin Pierce 66, Philadelphia 65
At Mankato, Minn.
Missouri Southern State 80, Fort Hays State 77
Central Missouri 56, Arkansas Tech 44
Minnesota State Marquette 97, Harding 56
Northwest Missouri State 98, Winona State 77

At Lakeland, Fla.
Delta State 82, Barry 77
Saint Leo 75, West Alabama 67
Tuskegee 98, Florida Southern 95
North Alabama 72, Tampa 68
At Denver
Midwestern State 72, Arkansas-Fort Smith 66
Tarleton State 92, Texas A&M-International 56
Metro State 76, Colorado-College Springs 72
Colorado Mines 90, St. Mary's (Texas) 67

At Springfield, Mo.
Michigan Tech 75, Southern Indiana 70
Indiana State 90, Bellarmine 83, OT
Drury 69, Wisconsin-Parkside 64
Findlay 85, Lake Superior 83, OT
At East Stroudsburg, Pa.
Indiana (Pa.) 75, West Chester 68
Indiana State 89, Greenville 88, OT
East Stroudsburg 99, Livingston 98
Gannon 66, Charleston (W. Va.) 64

At Alken, S.C.
Montevallo 97, Georgia Southwestern 88
Lincoln Memorial 76, Carson-Newman 65
South Carolina A&M 80, Limestone 54
GR Augusta 86, Anderson (S.C.) 84

Second Round
Sunday, March 16
At New Haven, Conn.
Saint Anselm vs. Bloomfield
Southern Connecticut State vs. Franklin Pierce
At Mankato, Minn.
Missouri Southern State vs. Central Missouri
Minnesota State Mankato vs. North Western Missouri State
At Lakeland, Fla.
Delta State vs. Saint Leo
Tuskegee vs. North Alabama

Midwestern State vs. Tarleton State
Michigan Tech vs. Colorado Mines
Michigan State vs. Indianapolis
St. Mary's vs. Findlay
At East Stroudsburg, Pa.
Indiana (Pa.) vs. West Liberty
East Stroudsburg vs. Cal State Stanislaus
At Alken, S.C.
Montevallo vs. Lincoln Memorial
South Carolina A&M vs. GR Augusta
At San Bernardino, Calif.
Cal Poly Pomona vs. Cal State Stanislaus
State Bernardino vs. Cal State Chico

Men's Division III tournament
Quarterfinals
Saturday, March 15
At Amherst, Mass.
Amherst 84, Morrisville State 74
At Fredrickburg, Va.
William 79, Mary Washington 46
At Stevens Point, Wis.
Wisconsin Whitewater 74, Emory 51
At Bloomington, Ind.
Illinois Wesleyan 79, Dickinson 66
At Salem (Va.)
Semifinals
Friday, March 21
Amherst vs. Williams
Wisconsin-Whitewater vs. Illinois Wesleyan

Pro soccer

MLS	
EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Houston	W 1 L 0 T 0 P 0 G 4
Philadelphia	1 0 0 0 0 2
Columbus	1 0 0 0 3 1
Portland	0 0 0 0 0 0
New York	0 0 1 1 1 2
Chicago	0 0 0 0 0 0
Chicago	0 0 1 0 0 2
Montreal	0 0 0 0 0 2
New England	0 2 0 0 0 5
WESTERN CONFERENCE	
Real Salt Lake	W 1 L 1 T 0 P 0 G 3
FC Dallas	1 0 1 0 4 3
Vancouver	1 0 0 0 3 1
San Jose	1 0 0 0 3 1
Seattle	1 0 0 0 2 2
Portland	0 0 1 1 1 1
Los Angeles	0 0 1 1 1 1

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday's games

Philadelphia 1, New England 0
Toronto FC 1, Colorado 1
Houston 1, Montreal 0

Saturday's women's scores

Tournament
Atlantic Sun Conference
Semifinals
Florida Gulf Coast 64, Mercer 47
Stetson 90, SC-Update 60
Big Sky Conference
Championship
North Dakota 71, 64-100
West Conference
Championship
CS Northridge 71, 64-100
Colonial Athletic Association
Semifinals
Delaware 60, Conf. of Charleston 52
James Madison 43

Conference of Charleston 52
James Madison 43
Middle Tennessee State 55
Mid-American Conference
Championship
Akron 79, Ball St. 68
Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference
Championship
Hampton 50, Coppin St. 47
Missouri Valley Conference
Semifinals
Drake 66, Indiana St. 58
Wichita St. 66, Illinois St. 50

Mountain West Conference
Championship
Fresno St. 77, Colorado St. 68
Pac-12 Conference
Championship
Army 68, Holy Cross 58
Southland Conference
Semifinals
Northwestern St. 62, Lamar 60
Stephen F. Austin 80, McNeese 54
Western Athletic Conference
Championship
Prairie View 63, Texas Southern 58
San Benito Conference
Championship
Kent State 61, Adams St. 60
Western Athletic Conference
Championship
Idaho 75, Seattle 67

Women's Div. II tournament

Second Round
Saturday, March 15
At Madison, N.J.
Limestone 78, Belmont Abbey 62
Armstrong Atlantic 72, Northern Georgia 70
At Canyon, Texas
Northwestern State 66, Eastern State 44
W. Texas A&M 79, St. Mary's (Texas) 66
At Searcy, Ark.
Emporia State 76, Wayne State 69
Concordia-St. Paul 85, Central Missouri 67
At Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
Tampa 75, Rollins 57
Albany State 66, Nova Southeastern 61
At Glenville, W. Va.
Edinboro 77, Gannon 69
Delaware 71, Glenville 78
At Pomona, Calif.
Montana State Billings 76, Simon Fraser 68
Cal Poly Pomona 80, Cal State Chico 80
At Madison, N.J.
LIU Post 85, Adelphi 83
Bentley 63, LIU Post 63
Sunday, March 16
Wayne State (Mich.) vs. Lewis
Turfs vs. Quincy

Women's Div. III tournament
Quarterfinals
Saturday, March 15
At Madison, N.J.
FDU-Highland 73, Montclair 37
Turfs 61, Ithaca 59
At Greencastle, Ind.
Wis.-Whitewater 78, DePue 71
At Walla Walla, Wash.
Whitman 76, Thomas 69
At Stevens Point, Wis.
Friday, March 21
Semifinals
Turfs vs. FDU-Highland
Wis.-Whitewater vs. Whitman

Auto racing

Drive to Stop Diabetes 300

NASCAR Saturday
At Bristol Motor Speedway
Bristol, Tenn.
Lap length: .533 miles
(Start position in parentheses)
1. (2) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 300 laps, 136.7, rating 9, points 347, 325
2. (1) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 300, 116.7, 0, 94-100
3. (6) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 300, 116.8, 0, 92-100
4. (19) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 300, 109.9, 0, 93, 825
5. (3) Matt Kenseth, Toyota, 300, 141.3, 0, 527, 775
6. (3) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 300, 98.2, 38, 529, 200
7. (20) Brendan Gaughan, Chevrolet, 300, 97.4, 37, 627, 635
8. (14) Trevor Bayne, Ford, 300, 89.5, 36, 529, 565
9. (15) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 300, 101.5, 35, 527, 275
10. (7) Regan Smith, Chevrolet, 300, 101.7, 34, 529, 275
11. (12) Cole Custer, Chevrolet, 300, 87.1, 0, 526, 725
12. (13) Ryan Reed, Chevrolet, 300, 87.1, 0, 526, 725
13. (17) Elliott Sadler, Toyota, 297, 80.5, 27, 529, 275
14. (3) James Buescher, Toyota, 299, 85.5, 31, 526, 725
15. (4) Brian Scott, Chevrolet, 299, 90.8, 30, 526, 725
16. (13) Ryan Kwasniewski, Chevrolet, 296, 66, 29, 527, 050
17. (13) Chris Buescher, Ford, 298, 72.7, 18, 529, 275
18. (17) Elliott Sadler, Toyota, 297, 80.5, 27, 529, 275
19. (3) Jeremy Clements, Chevrolet, 297, 80.5, 27, 529, 275
20. (3) Ryan Reed, Chevrolet, 297, 80.5, 27, 529, 275
21. (3) Joe Nemechek, Toyota, 297, 67.9, 0, 526, 725
22. (3) Ryan Reed, Chevrolet, 296, 62.8, 0, 526, 725
23. (3) Timmy Hill, Chevrolet, 296, 61.3, 0, 526, 725
24. (3) Timmy Hill, Chevrolet, 294, 57, 529, 275
25. (3) Jamie Dick, Chevrolet, 294, 52.7, 521, 525, 920
26. (2) Dakota Armstrong, Ford, 294, 52.7, 521, 525, 920
27. (2) Mike Wallace, Dodge, 294, 60.7, 19, 529, 275
28. (10) Mike Bliss, Toyota, 293, 68.9, 18, 529, 275
29. (7) (35) Eric McClure, Toyota, 290, 38.8, 17, 529, 275
30. (8) (26) Derrick Cole, Chevrolet, 289, 40.8, 16, 519, 595
31. (8) (26) Kevin Gase, Chevrolet, 285, 36.9, 15, 525, 545
32. (20) Josh Wise, Chevrolet, 270, 47.1, 0, 525, 295
33. (20) Ryan Reed, Ford, accident, 258, 66.1, 13, 524, 790
34. (17) Jeffrey Earnhardt, Chevrolet, 249, 52, 524, 665
35. (3) (39) Kevin Garcia Jr., Toyota, accident, 214, 31, 11, 524, 545
36. (3) Kevin Lapege, Dodge, engine, 154, 13, 0, 524, 545
37. (25) Kelly Alkalid, Toyota, engine, 148, 49.3, 518, 465
38. (25) Tanner Berryhill, Dodge, engine, 144, 36.4, 4, 523, 025
39. (25) Matt Carter, Toyota, brakes, 18, 32.5, 0, 519, 900
40. (25) Carl Long, Dodge, electrical, 11, 32.5, 0, 519, 931
41. (25) Matt DiBenedetto, Chevrolet, electrical, 6, 30.3, 5, 16, 830
42. (24) Blake Koch, Toyota, vibration, 5, 30.3, 5, 16, 830
43. (24) Blake Koch, Toyota, vibration, 5, 30.3, 5, 16, 830

Top 10 in Points: 1. R. Smith, 151; 2. T. Bayne, 150; 3. T. Dillon, 143; 4. C. Elliott, 136; 5. E. Sadler, 135; 6. J. B. McQuinn, 134; 7. B. Scott, 127; 8. J. Buescher, 117; 9. D. Kwasniewski, 116; 10. L. Cassill, 105.

NASCAR Driver Rating Formula
A maximum of 150 points can be attained in a race.
The formula includes the following categories: Wins, Finishes, Top-15 Finishes, Average Running Position, Pole on Lead Lap, Average Speed Under Green, Fastest Lap, Led Most Laps, Lead Lap Finish.

At Bristol Motor circuit
Melbourne, Australia
Lap length: 3.30 miles
1. Nico Rosberg, Germany, Mercedes, 57 laps, 1:32:58.10, 121, 203 mph.
2. Daniel Ricciardo, Australia, Red Bull, 57, 1:33:23.235.
3. Jean Magnussen, Denmark, McLaren, 57, 1:33:25.487.
4. Jensen Button, England, McLaren, 57, 1:33:28.737.
5. Fernando Alonso, Spain, Ferrari, 57, 1:33:33.944.
6. Valtteri Bottas, Finland, Williams, 57, 1:33:46.349.
7. Kimi Raikkonen, Finland, Ferrari, 57, 1:33:46.349.
8. Jean-Eric Vergne, France, Toro Rosso, 57, 1:33:59.151.
9. Daniil Kvyat, Russia, Toro Rosso, 57, 1:34:02.295.
10. Sergio Perez, Mexico, Force India, 57, 1:34:02.626.
11. Adrian Sutil, Germany, Sauber, 56, +1 lap.
12. Esteban Gutierrez, Mexico, Sauber, 56, +1 lap.
13. Max Chilton, England, Marussia, 55, +2 laps.

Not Classified
15. Jules Bianchi, France, Marussia, 49, 1:34:32.241.
16. Romain Grosjean, France, Lotus, 43, Retired.
17. Pastor Maldonado, Venezuela, Lotus, 39, Retired.
18. Marcus Ericsson, Sweden, Caterham, 27, Retired.
19. Sebastian Vettel, Germany, Red Bull, 3, Retired.
20. Felipe Massa, Brazil, Williams, 0, Retired.
21. Lewis Hamilton, England, Mercedes, 2, Retired.
22. Kamui Kobayashi, Japan, Caterham, 0, Retired.

Drivers' Standings
(After 1 of 19 races)
1. Nico Rosberg, Germany, Mercedes, 25 points
2. Daniel Ricciardo, Australia, Red Bull, 18 points
3. Jean-Eric Vergne, France, Toro Rosso, 15 points
4. Kimi Raikkonen, Finland, Ferrari, 4 points
5. Fernando Alonso, Spain, Ferrari, 10 points
6. Valtteri Bottas, Finland, Williams, 8 points
7. Nico Hulkenberg, Germany, Force India, 6 points
8. Daniil Kvyat, Russia, Toro Rosso, 1 point
9. Jean-Eric Vergne, France, Toro Rosso, 1 point
10. Daniil Kvyat, Russia, Toro Rosso, 1 point
11. McLaren, 1 point
12. Mercedes, 25 points
13. Red Bull, 18 points
14. Ferrari, 4 points
15. Williams, 8 points
16. Force India, 6 points
17. Toro Rosso, 3 points

Margin of Victory: 1.44 seconds.
Race Length: 147 laps.
Lead Changes: 3 among 3 drivers.
Fastest Lap: 1:32.581, K. Rosberg, 3:29; M. Kenseth 3:06; K. Busch 3:07; M. Kenseth 3:09; K. Busch 2:10-300.
Laps Led: Sunday's (Driver) Timmy Hill, Chevrolet, 4 times for 120 laps; K. Larson, 1 time for 2 laps.

Goalies - Montreal, Troy Perkins; Houston, Tally Hall.
Goals - Seattle - Sarkodie, Houston, 35th; Taylor, Houston, 52nd; Martins, 53rd; Cantreal, 59th; Camara, Montreal, 77th; Bernierdillo, Montreal, 78th.
A-18,245 (22,000)

Goals - Dallas 1, Sporting KC 1
Sporting Kansas City
Goals - Seattle 1, Sporting Kansas City 1
Collin K. (Feilhaber), 81st minute. 2. FC Dallas, 2nd minute. 3. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 4. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 5. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 6. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 7. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 8. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 9. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 10. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 11. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 12. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 13. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 14. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 15. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 16. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 17. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 18. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 19. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 20. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 21. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 22. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 23. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 24. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 25. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 26. Sporting Kansas City, 90th minute. 27. 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NBA



Grizzlies forward Zach Randolph, top left, gets a shot past the 76ers' Thaddeus Young, center, and Henry Sims during Saturday's game in Philadelphia. Memphis won 103-77.

Roundup

76ers lose 20th straight

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA—The 76ers had a loss for the record book. Mike Conley scored 19 points and Zach Randolph had 14 to lead the Memphis Grizzlies to a 103-77 win Saturday night, sending the 76ers to a franchise-tying 20th straight loss.

The Sixers also lost 20 straight games from Jan. 9, 1973-Feb. 11, 1973, in a 9-73 season. The NBA record for consecutive losses in a season is 26 set by the 2010-11 Cleveland Cavaliers.

That mark just may be next: The Sixers (15-51) play only one team over the next six games with a losing record, the Knicks on Friday, and they are on a six-game winning streak.

"This is not even close to that," Philadelphia coach Brett Brown said before the game. "This is about building a program and understanding the short-term pain for a lot of long-term gain."

Pacers 112, Pistons 104 (OT): At Auburn Hills, Mich., Paul George scored 30 points and Indiana rallied from a 25-point second-quarter deficit.

Evan Turner added 20 points for the Pacers, and David West scored six of his 15 points in overtime. Indiana leads Miami by 3½ games in the race for the top seed in the Eastern Conference.

Josh Smith scored 23 points for the Pistons, who lost star center Andre Drummond in the first quarter to a neck injury. Drummond was able to walk off with some assistance, but he was expected to have further testing.

Bulls 94, Kings 87: Joakim Noah had 23 points and 11 rebounds, Taj Gibson scored seven of his 19 points in the fourth quarter and Chicago held off visiting Sacramento.

Mike Dunleavy added 16 and DJ Augustin 12 for the Bulls. Isaiah Thomas led the Kings with 26 and DeMarcus Cousins had 25.

Both teams struggled on offense, with the Bulls shooting 40 percent and the Kings 37 percent.

The Bulls, who are fourth in the Eastern Conference, improved to 3-2 on their six-game homestand. The Kings are 2-1 on their seven-game road trip.

Wizards 101, Nets 94: John Wall scored 33 points, Drew Gooden got 11 of his 21 in the final quarter and host Washington overcame a 10-point fourth-quarter deficit to beat Brooklyn and move past the Nets for fifth place in the Eastern Conference.

Gooden's three-pointer broke a 94-94 tie with 2:37 left. Trevor Ariza then scored off an offensive rebound with 44 seconds left and Wall capped it with a dunk.

The Nets, who went the final 6-22 without a field goal, were led by Marcus Thornton's 19 points. Joe Johnson added 16 and Paul Pierce had 15.

Trailing 82-72 early in the fourth, the Wizards went on a 15-4 run keyed by Gooden (8-for-11 from the field) and Al Harrington.

Washington completed a sweep of the season series (3-0).

Knicks 115, Bucks 93: Carmelo Anthony scored 23 points, Tim Hardaway Jr. had 20, and New York beat visiting Milwaukee for its season-high sixth straight victory as the team prepares to welcome Phil Jackson back to the franchise.

Amare Stoudemire and J.R. Smith each scored 15 for the Knicks, who easily ended their daytime woes by pounding the team with the NBA's worst record.

Hawks 97, Nuggets 92: Paul Millsap had 24 points and 11 rebounds, Jeff Teague added 15 points and 10 assists and host Atlanta rallied to beat Denver and earn its third straight win.

Kenneth Faried finished with 25 points and Wilson Chandler scored 12 for the Nuggets.

The win kept the Hawks 3½ games ahead of the Knicks for the eighth and final Eastern Conference playoff spot.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division		W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	37	27	70		
Brooklyn	33	31	51.6	4	
New York	27	40	38.4	10	
Boston	22	44	33.3	16	
Philadelphia	22	27	22.7	23	

Southeast Division		W	L	Pct	GB
xMiami	44	19	69.8	—	
Washington	35	23	53.9	10.5	
Charlotte	32	34	48.5	13.9	
Atlanta	29	35	45	16.5	
Orlando	19	48	28.4	27	

Central Division		W	L	Pct	GB
xIndiana	49	17	74.2	—	
Chicago	37	29	56.1	12	
Cleveland	26	38	40.8	23	
Detroit	25	41	37.9	24	
Milwaukee	13	53	19.7	36	

Western Conference

Southwest Division		W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	49	16	75.4	—	
Houston	41	25	61.7	5	
Dallas	39	27	59.1	10.5	
Memphis	39	27	59.1	10.5	
New Orleans	29	39	42.9	23	

Northwest Division		W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	43	23	65.2	5.5	
Portland	41	25	61.9	8.5	
Minnesota	29	37	43.9	19.5	
Utah	22	44	33.3	26.5	

Pacific Division		W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	47	20	70	—	
Golden State	41	26	61	6	
Phoenix	37	28	56.9	9	
Sacramento	31	34	47.9	15	
L.A. Lakers	24	43	35.3	24.5	

x-clinched playoff spot

Friday's games		W	L	Pct	GB
Washington 105, Orlando 101, OT					
Atlanta 94, Philadelphia 84					
Toronto 99, Memphis 86					
Charlotte 105, Minnesota 93					
Phoenix 87, Boston 80					
Denver 111, Miami 107					
Portland 111, New Orleans 103					
San Antonio 119, L.A. Lakers 85					
L.A. Clippers 96, Utah 87					
Cleveland 103, Golden State 94					

Saturday's games		W	L	Pct	GB
New York 115, Milwaukee 94					
Washington 101, Brooklyn 94					
Memphis 103, Philadelphia 77					
Indiana 112, Detroit 104, OT					
San Antonio 97, Denver 82					
Chicago 94, Sacramento 87					

Sunday's games		W	L	Pct	GB
Charlotte at Toronto					
Houston at Miami					
Boston at New Orleans					
Sacramento at Minnesota					
Dallas at Oklahoma City					
Utah at San Antonio					
Golden State at Portland					
Cleveland at L.A. Clippers					

Monday's games		W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia at Indiana					
Atlanta at Charlotte					
Phoenix at Brooklyn					
Oklahoma City at Chicago					
Utah at Houston					
Boston at Dallas					
L.A. Clippers at Denver					

Saturday

Knicks 115, Bucks 97

MILWAUKEE Iyassova 3-10 2-2 8, Middleton 3-10 0-0 6, Pacheco 2-3 0-0 4, Knight 5-13 4-14, Wolters 5-7 3-4 15, Henson 3-8 0-0 4, Antetokounmpo 0-5 2-7 7, Sessions 4-9 5-6 14, Adrien 5-10 0-0 10, Udoh 2-4 2-3 12, Wright 0-2 3-4 3, Goolsby 10-27 9-4.

NEW YORK Anthony 8-16 6-6 23, Smith 6-13 3-4 18, Chandler 1-2 0-0 2, Felton 4-6 0-0 5, Smith 5-7 3-13 15, Shumpert 5-12 2-2 14, Harden Jr. 8-12 2-2 20, Pridgen 0-1 0-0 0, Tyler 1-2 4-6 6, Harrell 1-2 0-0 2, Brown 1-3 0-0 3, Clark 1-1 0-0 2, Totals 42-76 23-28 115.

Milwaukee 23 19 24 28-94
New York 30 30 28 27-115
Three-Point Goals—Brooklyn 4-10 (Wolters 2-2, Sessions 1-1, Antetokounmpo 1-1, Knight 0-1, Iyassova 0-2, Middleton 0-1, Pacheco 0-1, Udoh 0-1, Henson 0-2, Smith 2-2, Shumpert 2-3, Harden Jr. 2-6, Felton 1-1, Anthony 0-1, Clark 0-1, Brown 0-1, Tyler 0-1, Pridgen 0-1, Goolsby 0-1).

Wizards 101, Nets 94
Washington 42-55 2-2 0-0 16, Pierce 4-9 5-15, Plumlee 4-9 0-0 8, Williams 4-14 4-14, Livingston 2-5 2-4 6, Blatche 3-7 3-4 9, Thornton 7-11 0-0 19, Kirilenko 2-4 1-5, Teletovich 0-0 0-0 0, Anderson 1-2 0-0 2, Smith 1-2 0-0 2, Washington 37-21 11-20 94.
Wizards 43 29 34 111-94
Three-Point Goals—Brooklyn 11-21 (Thornton 5-6, Johnson 2-3, Pierce 2-4, Williams 1-1, Harrison 0-1), Washington 8-26 (Wall 4-6, Beal 2-6, Gooden 1-2, Westbrook 1-1, Harrison 0-1), Wizards 2-7 (Harrison 3-4, Johnson 4-4, Smith 2-2, Wall 0-0, Totals—Brooklyn 25, Washington 14. A—20,356 (18,738).

Wizards 101, Nets 94

BROOKLYN Johnson 10-18 0-0 16, Pierce 4-9 5-15, Plumlee 4-9 0-0 8, Williams 4-14 4-14, Livingston 2-5 2-4 6, Blatche 3-7 3-4 9, Thornton 7-11 0-0 19, Kirilenko 2-4 1-5, Teletovich 0-0 0-0 0, Anderson 1-2 0-0 2, Smith 1-2 0-0 2, Washington 37-21 11-20 94.
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Hawks 97, Nuggets 92

DENVER Chandler 5-10 0-0 12, Faried 9-13 7-13 25, Mozgov 3-5 0-0 6, Lawson 3-12 2-2 4, Foye 2-5 2-5 5, Dickson 4-3 3-3 11, Arthur 3-7 2-2 9, Fournier 4-10 0-0 10, Miller 1-3 0-0 2, Brooks 3-9 0-0 7, Vesely 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 34-53 15-25 92.
ATLANTA Carroll 4-13 0-0 11, Millsap 6-17 11-16 24, Antic 6-12 1-2 16, Teague 5-13 2-3 18, Korver 3-9 0-0 9, Brand 1-3 1-3 3, Mack 1-2 0-0 3, Schroder 2-7 0-2 5, Scott 1-2 0-2 2, Martin 0-3 0-0 0, Totals 38-117 29 97.

Grizzlies 103, 76ers 77

MEMPHIS Prince 3-4 1-1 7, Randolph 5-11 4-5 14, Gasol 5-6 5-6 12, Conley 5-9 7-8 19, Lee 3-6 0-1 6, Calathes 3-6 0-1 6, Davis 10-16 2-3 23, Anderson 2-11 0-0 4, Wroten 6-11 1-2 13, Varnado 1-1 2-4 4, Mullens 0-3 0-0 0, Williams 3-8 1-2 8, Johnson-Gordon 0-5 0-2 0, Davis 0-1 2-1 2, Totals 31-83 19 77.
Philadelphia 22 23 29 92-103
Three-Point Goals—Memphis 4-15 (Conley 2-5, Allen 1-1, Johnson 1-3, Leuer 0-1, Prince 1-1, Lee 0-2, Calathes 0-3), Philadelphia 6-23 (George 4-5, Williams 1-3, Carter-Williams 1-3, Thompson 0-1, Wroten 0-1, Johnson 0-2, Mullens 0-2, Anderson 0-6). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Memphis 51 (Davis 16), Philadelphia 52 (Carter-Williams 8). Assists—Memphis 27 (Gasol, Calathes 6), Philadelphia 16 (Techawiebo 4, Davis 4, Totals Fouls—Memphis 24, Philadelphia 24. A—15,164 (20,328).

Pacers 112, Pistons 104 (OT)

INDIANA George 9-19 10-10 30, West 6-13 3-4 15, Hibbert 4-10 4-12 12, Gillis 1-7 0-0 2, Stephenson 5-15 1-5 13, Turner 2-11 0-0 3, Scota 1-6 0-0 2, A.Burnum 1-6 0-0 3 15, Butler 1-3 3, S.Hill 0-0-0 0, Totals 41-104 22-15 112.
Detroit Smith 10-23 2-3 23, Monroe 6-14 5-17 20, Drummond 4-14 0-0 8, Jennings 3-13 2-10 8, Singler 3-7 6-6 14, Stuckey 6-17 7-19 19, Jerebko 2-5 0-0 4, W.Brynum 2-4 0-1 4, Villanueva 3-5 1-2 12, Caldwell-Pope 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 37-121 23-10 104.

Indiana 29, 21 37 12-102

Three-Point Goals—Indiana 7-24 (Stephenson 3-8, George 2-10, Butler 1-1, Turner 1-2, Gillis 0-3), Detroit 7-23 (Villanueva 2-3, Singler 2-5, Jennings 2-7, Turner 1-2, Techawiebo 0-3, S.Hill 0-0, Jerebko 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Indiana 72 (A.Burnum, Stephens 14), Detroit 64 (Jennings 12). Total Fouls—Indiana 24, Detroit 16. Technical Fouls—Indiana 1 defensive three second, Monroe. A—17,440 (22,076).

Bulls 94, Kings 87

SACRAMENTO Gay 5-12 3-13 43, Evans 2-4 2-5, Cousins 10-21 5-25 25, Thomas 7-18 12-12 36, McCollum 9-15 5-6 23, Hinrich 3-6 4-5 15, Williams 1-3 3-3 3, Outlaw 0-3 0-0 0, Smith 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 31-85 23-37 87.
CHICAGO Dunleavy 4-11 5-15 16, Boomer 0-0 0-0 0, McCollum 9-15 5-6 23, Hinrich 3-6 4-5 15, Williams 1-3 3-3 3, Outlaw 0-3 0-0 0, Smith 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 31-85 23-37 87.

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Wizards 101, Nets 94

BROOKLYN Johnson 10-18 0-0 16, Pierce 4-9 5-15, Plumlee 4-9 0-0 8, Williams 4-14 4-14, Livingston 2-5 2-4 6, Blatche 3-7 3-4 9, Thornton 7-11 0-0 19, Kirilenko 2-4 1-5, Teletovich 0-0 0-0 0, Anderson 1-2 0-0 2, Smith 1-2 0-0 2, Washington 37-21 11-20 94.
Wizards 43 29 34 111-94
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Calendar

- April 16** — Last day of regular season. Playoffs begin.
- May 20** — Draft lottery.
- June 1** — NBA Finals begin.
- June 16** — Draft early entry withdrawal deadline.
- June 26** — NBA Draft.

MLS/SPORTS BRIEFS



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Real Salt Lake defender Nat Borchers climbs over San Jose Earthquakes forward Steven Lenhart for a header during the first half of Saturday's game in Santa Clara, Calif.

MLS roundup

Earthquakes earn a draw with late goal

The Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Victor Bernardez tied the game with his second goal in the 95th minute and the San Jose Earthquakes drew 3-3 with Real Salt Lake on Saturday night.

Bernardez jumped on a loose clearance off a last-ditch cross from Shaun Francis. Real Salt Lake goalkeeper Nick Rimando went up against Earthquakes forward Alan Gordon to try and punch it clear, but the ball barely made it out of the visitors' 6-yard box, allowing Bernardez to score. The final whistle sounded just after the ensuing kickoff.

Chris Wondolowski also tallied for the Earthquakes, who had lost their regular-season opener to RSL in three of the previous four seasons.

Toronto FC 2, Sounders 1: Former Tottenham striker Jermain Defoe scored twice in the first half of his Major League Soccer debut, and new-look Toronto FC held off Seattle. Clint Dempsey scored for Seattle.

Rapids 1, Red Bulls 1: Vicente Sanchez scored on a penalty kick in the 72nd minute as Colorado opened with a tie with host New York.

FC Dallas 1, Sporting Kansas City 1: Matt Hedges scored a late goal and made a goal-line clearance in second-half stoppage time, giving unbeaten FC Dallas a draw with host Sporting Kansas City.

Dynamo 1, Impact 0: Will Bruin scored in the 40th minute to help host Houston beat Montreal. He's the first Dynamo player since Brian Ching in 2006 to score in each of the first two games of a season.

Union 1, Revolution 0: Sebastian Le Toux scored in the 31st minute, lifting host Philadelphia past New England.

Briefly

Former Marine lifts US to Paralympic hockey gold

The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — Former U.S. Marine Josh Sweeney's second-period goal proved to be the difference as the United States defeated Russia 1-0 on Saturday to win the gold medal in the Paralympic ice sledge hockey tournament.

"When they announced us as the gold medal I was really surprised that the crowd cheered," Sweeney said.

It was Sweeney's goal in the second period that retained the Paralympic title for the U.S., ensuring it was "The Star-Spangled Banner" playing later in the near-7,000 capacity arena as the team embraced on the ice.

The U.S. match-winning moment came in the 25th minute

after Sweeney intercepted a mistake by defenseman Alexei Lysov. Sweeney swept forward before raising the puck past goalie Vladimir Kamantsev.

Sweeney lost his legs and left arm about five years ago after stepping on an improvised explosive device while on patrol in Afghanistan.

Garrigus leads Valspar Championships by 1

PALM HARBOR, Fla. — Robert Garrigus missed two short putts on the back nine and had to settle for a 1-under 70 and a one-shot lead Saturday in the Valspar Championship.

John Senden matched the low score of the tournament with a

64 in perfect, sunny weather. He moved up 32 spots to third, and goes into the final round two shots behind. Justin Rose hit a wild tee shot on the 18th and made bogey, though his 69 left the No. 7 player in the third hole behind.

In other golf news:

■ Bernhard Langer maintained a two-stroke lead in the Champions Tour's Toshiba Classic in Newport Beach, Calif., making four birdies in a late five-hole stretch for a 5-under 66.

Vikings, Johnson agree on new deal, source says

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Vikings will keep their offensive line intact for the third straight year by bringing left

guard Charlie Johnson back to the group.


Johnson and the Vikings agreed to terms Saturday on a two-year contract worth as much as \$5 million, according to two people with knowledge of the deal.

Betancur captures Paris-Nice cycling race

NICE, France — Carlos Betancur became the first Colombian rider to win the Paris-Nice cycling race while Arthur Vichot took the last stage on Sunday.

Vichot outsprinted Jose Joaquin Rojas Gil and Cyril Gautier on the Promenade des Anglais to finish the 128-kilometer trek around Nice in 3 hours, 06 minutes, 56 seconds.

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NHL



MICHAEL DUYER/AP

The Bruins' David Krejci is tripped up as the Hurricanes' Justin Faulk (27) defends against the Bruins' Jarome Iginla (12) in the first period of Saturday's game in Boston. The Bruins won 5-1.

Roundup

Iginla, Bruins top Hurricanes

Eastern Conference-leading Boston wins eighth straight

By KEN POWTAK
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Boston winger Milan Lucic didn't hide the thoughts of his teammates in the Bruins' locker room following a fairly easy win over Carolina.

"I just hope we're not peaking right now and keep wanting more," Lucic said after the Eastern Conference-leading Bruins beat the Hurricanes 5-1 on Saturday afternoon for their eighth straight victory.

"We've done a good job of staying focused and keeping on the task at hand," he said. "It seems like we're playing at our highest level of the season so far. It seems to have gotten better since the start of February."

Jarome Iginla scored a pair of goals and backup goaltender Chad Johnson made 29 saves, helping extend the Bruins' longest winning streak since a 10-game stretch in November 2011.

Lucic had a goal and two assists, Torey Krug and Chris Kelly each added a goal and David Krejci added three assists, his first coming as he was falling to the ice on Lucic's score.

Alexander Semin had the goal and Cam Ward made 36 saves for the Hurricanes, who lost for the eighth time in 11 games.

Bruins defenseman Johnny Boychuk had to be helped off the ice favoring his right leg after going off-balance into the boards midway into the third period. He was back about a minute later and ended up blocking a shot before limping off on his next shift.

Boston grabbed a 1-0 lead on Lucic's goal 15:28 into the opening period. Krejci was falling after being tripped on by Ward, but he pushed the puck ahead to



MARK ZALESKI/AP

St. Louis Blues center Steve Ott (29) and Ian Cole (28) congratulate goalie Ryan Miller after beating the Nashville Predators 4-1 on Saturday in Nashville, Tenn.



President's Trophy race

	Gms
St. Louis	46 14 7 99 15
Anaheim	45 16 7 97 14
Boston	45 17 5 95 15
San Jose	44 17 7 95 14
Pittsburgh	44 18 4 92 16
Colorado	43 19 5 91 15
Chicago	38 15 4 90 15

The Associated Press

Lucic. The winger then snapped off a quick shot inside the right post into a wide-open area with Ward over near the other post.

Lucic then set up Iginla to make it 2-0 at 17:24 of the second. The Bruins' rugged winger outworked defenseman Jay Harrison for the puck in the corner, hustled to it behind the net and sent a pass out front to Iginla, who fired a wrist shot inside the

far post over Ward's glove. Semin ended Johnson's shutout bid 3:53 into the third when his shot caromed off the stick of Boychuk and bounced into the net.

Boston broke it open with two goals later in the period before Krug scored in the final seconds.

Blues 4, Predators 1: Patrick Bernier scored twice to lead visiting St. Louis by Nashville.

Vladimir Tarasenko and Alexander Steen had the other goals for the Blues, who have won seven of their past eight. St. Louis is 9-0-2 against the Central division.

Canadiens 5, Senators 4 (SO): Francis Bouillon scored 1:26 into overtime as his Montreal erased a three-goal deficit in the third period to beat Ottawa.

Blue Jackets 2, Wild 1 (SO): Ryan Johansen scored a disputed goal in the fourth round of the shootout to lifting Columbus over Minnesota.

Flyers 4, Penguins 0: Matt Read scored a pair of goals as host Philadelphia beat short-handed Pittsburgh. Scott Hartnell and Vincent Lecavalier also scored for Philadelphia.

Lightning 3, Devils 0: Ben Bishop stopped 23 shots to set Tampa Bay's single-season record with 31 wins as the Lightning beat visiting New Jersey.

Islanders 4, Sabres 1: Frans Nielsen and Kyle Okposo scored first-period goals as host New York defeated Buffalo.

Coyotes 3, Flames 2: Shane Doan stopped his 350th career goal on one of Phoenix's six third-period power plays to help the Coyotes beat visiting Calgary.

Ducks 2, Kings 1: Patrick Maroon scored the go-ahead goal and Frederik Andersen made 37 saves as Anaheim beat host Los Angeles for their third straight win in the Freeway Faceoff rivalry.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	67	43	17	5	92	215	146
Toronto	68	36	24	8	80	201	207
Tampa Bay	67	42	19	6	90	184	175
Montreal	68	36	25	7	79	172	174
Detroit	67	32	29	6	70	184	164
Ottawa	66	28	35	3	69	189	218
Buffalo	67	29	30	8	66	172	190
Pittsburgh	66	44	18	4	92	206	163
Columbus	67	35	26	6	76	195	184
N.Y. Rangers	68	36	28	4	76	197	169
Philadelphia	66	34	25	7	75	188	190
Washington	67	30	32	6	66	177	193
New Jersey	68	29	36	3	61	165	176
Carolina	68	29	36	3	61	166	176
N.Y. Islanders	69	26	39	4	61	195	233

Western Conference

Central Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	67	46	14	7	99	223	151
Colorado	67	43	19	5	91	206	180
Chicago	67	38	24	5	80	227	178
Minnesota	67	35	22	10	80	164	164
Dallas	66	32	23	11	75	191	185
Winnipeg	68	30	39	9	69	186	199
Nashville	68	29	29	10	68	164	201
Pacific Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	68	45	16	7	97	218	172
San Jose	68	44	17	7	95	213	165
Los Angeles	68	38	24	6	82	165	144
Phoenix	68	32	25	11	75	188	193
Vancouver	69	30	29	10	70	163	187
Calgary	68	27	34	7	61	165	202
Edmonton	67	26	36	5	56	169	223

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Friday's Games

Detroit 2, Edmonton 1, SO
Calgary 4, Dallas 3, SO
San Jose 4, N.Y. Islanders 3
Washington 4, Vancouver 3
Florida 5, New Jersey 3
Nashville 3, Chicago 2, 1
N.Y. Rangers 4, Winnipeg 2
Anaheim 6, Columbus 1

Saturday's Games

Columbus 2, Minnesota 1, SO
Boston 5, Carolina 1
Philadelphia 4, Pittsburgh 0
Montreal 5, Ottawa 4, OT
Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 0
N.Y. Islanders 3, Buffalo 2
St. Louis 4, Nashville 1
Phoenix 3, Calgary 2

Sunday's Games

Anaheim 2, Los Angeles 1
Philadelphia 4, Pittsburgh 3
Vancouver at Florida
Toronto at Washington
Edmonton at Carolina
New Jose at N.Y. Rangers
Colorado at Ottawa
Nashville at Buffalo
Detroit at Chicago
Dallas at Winnipeg

Monday's Games

Minnesota at Boston
Vancouver at Tampa Bay
Winnipeg at St. Louis
Phoenix at Los Angeles

Saturday

Ducks 2, Kings 1

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	68	45	16	7	97	218	172
Los Angeles	68	38	24	6	82	213	164

First period—1, Anaheim, Jackman 4 (Petruska, Delany, 10:01).

Second period—1, Los Angeles, Toffoli 11 (Stoll, Martin, 11:21) (pp.) 3, Anaheim, Maroon 6 (Palmer, 12:12).

Shots on goal—Anaheim 7-8-5-20.

Power-play opportunities—Anaheim 0 of 3; Los Angeles 1 of 3.

Goals—Anaheim, Andersen 16-40 (38 shots, 37 saves); Los Angeles, Jones 10-5-2 (29-38).

A-18,278 (18,118). T-2:40.

Coyotes 3, Flames 2

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary	68	30	32	6	66	177	193
Phoenix	67	31	28	8	70	184	164

First period—1, Phoenix, Summers 1 (Korpiakowski, Moss), 4:52.

Second period—1, Phoenix, Klinkhammer 1 (Bissonnette, Yandell), 5:43.

Third period—1, Phoenix, Klinkhammer 1 (Cammalleri, Giordano), 7:46 (pp.) 4.

Shots on goal—Phoenix, 17 (Cammalleri, McManis), 15:37 (pp.).

Goals—Coyotes, Phoenix, 10-11-6-31.

Shots on goal—Calgary 8-18-6-32.

Power-play opportunities—Calgary 2 of 3; Phoenix 1 of 3.

Goals—Calgary, Orto 3-4-0 (25 shots, 22 saves); Phoenix, Smith 25-30 (32-30).

A-16,373 (17,125). T-2:28.

Blue Jackets 2, Wild 1 (SO)

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Columbus	67	31	30	6	68	172	190
Minnesota	67	30	31	6	66	172	190

Columbus won shootout 1-0.

Second period—1, Columbus, Prout 1 (Stoll, Martin, 11:21) (pp.) 2.

Third period—2, Minnesota, Pominville 15 (Petruska, Suter), 3:12.

Shots on goal—Columbus 11-11-6-31.

Power-play opportunities—Columbus 0 of 0; Minnesota 1 of 1.

Goals—Columbus, Bobrovsky 26-16 (30 shots, 32 saves); Minnesota, Kuehler 12-4-4 (29-28).

A-19,942 (17,954). T-2:39.

Blues 4, Predators 1

St. Louis	1	2	1-4
Nashville	0	1	0-1

First period—1, St. Louis, Berglund 13, 11:32.

Second period—1, St. Louis, Berglund 14 (Ott, Polak, 2:23), 3; St. Louis, Tarasenko 21 (Oshie, Pietrangeli), 7:21, 4.

Nashville, Nyström 13 (Sissons, Gustafsson), 16:50.

Third period—5, St. Louis, Steen 30 (Schwartz, Backes), 8:01.

Shots on goal—St. Louis 8-14-4-26.

Nashville 5-12-10-31.

Power-play opportunities—St. Louis 0 of 1; Nashville 0 of 3.

Goals—St. Louis, Miller 21-22-4 (31 shots, 30 saves); Nashville, Rinne 6-8-1 (26-22).

A-17,113 (17,113). T-2:28.

Canadiens 5, Senators 4 (OT)

Senators 4 (OT)						
Ottawa	1	1	2	0-4		

First period—1, Montreal, Briere 12, 3:8.

Second period—3, Ottawa, Smith 11 (Ekarsson), 17:10.

Third period—1, Ottawa, Hemsky 10 (Spezza), 15:14.

Shots on goal—Ottawa, MacArthur 20 (Hemsky), 5:08.

Goals—Ottawa, Spezza 18 (MacArthur, Ekarsson), 3:08.

Power-play opportunities—Ottawa 0 of 3; Montreal 1 of 3.

Goals—Ottawa, Lehner 7-11-5 (48 shots, 43 saves). Montreal, Price 27-17-5 (34-30).

A-21,273 (21,273). T-2:47.

Islanders 4, Sabres 1

Buffalo	0	0	1-1
N.Y. Islanders	2	0	2-4

First period—1, N.Y. Islanders, Nielsen 22 (Lee, Okposo), 3:31.

Second period—1, N.Y. Islanders, Nielsen 22 (Lee, Okposo), 3:31.

Third period—1, N.Y. Islanders, Nielsen 22 (Lee, Okposo), 3:31.

Shots on goal—Buffalo 14-10-10-34.

N.Y. Islanders 10-14-14-38.

Power-play opportunities—Buffalo 1 of 3; N.Y. Islanders 1 of 3.

Goals—Buffalo, Ennis 4-16-5 (37 shots, 34 saves). N.Y. Islanders, Nilsson 3-4-2 (34-33).

A-14,388 (16,170). T-2:34.

Lightning 3, Devils 0

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	68	30	32	6	66	177	193
Tampa Bay	67	31	28	8	70	184	164

First period—1, Tampa Bay, Thompson 9 (Growth, 16:41).

Second period—1, Tampa Bay, Thompson 9 (Growth, 16:41).

Third period—1, Tampa Bay, Thompson 9 (Growth, 16:41).

Shots on goal—New Jersey 6-9-8-23.

Tampa Bay 14-9-3-32.

Power-play opportunities—New Jersey 0 of 2; Tampa Bay 0 of 1.

Goals—New Jersey, Girard 17-12-4 (32 shots, 29 saves). Tampa Bay, Bishop 14-11-2 (23-23).

A-19,204 (19,204). T-2:24.

Flyers 4, Penguins 0

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	67	31	30	6	68	172	190
Minnesota	67	30	31	6	66	172	190

First period—1, Philadelphia, Hartnell 1 (Giroux, Simmonds), 3:50.

Second period—1, Philadelphia, Read 17 (Courtier), 8:12.

Third period—3, Philadelphia, Lecavalier 15 (Schenn, Grossmann), 14:04.

Shots on goal—Pittsburgh 7-11-25.

Philadelphia 12-17-11-40.

Power-play opportunities—Pittsburgh 0 of 5; Philadelphia 1 of 4.

Goals—Pittsburgh, Fleury 34-15-3 (40 shots, 36 saves). Philadelphia, Mason 27-16-5 (25-25).

A-19,233 (19,541). T-2:23.

Bruins 5, Hurricanes 1

Carolina	0	0	1-1
Boston	1	1	3-5

First Period—1, Boston, Lucic 21 (Kre-

First period—1, Boston, Lucic 21 (Krejci), 15:28.

Second period—2, Boston, Iginla 12 (Joestatic), 3:53.

Third period—1, Carolina, Semin 19 (Luic, Hamilton), 12:49.

Shots on goal—Boston, Iginla 23 (Miller, 18:30).

Goals—Boston, Iginla 9-13-30.

Power-play opportunities—Carolina 0 of 3; Boston 0 of 2.

Goals—Carolina, Ward 8-11-5 (41 shots, 36 saves). Boston, Lucic 14-3-1 (30-29).

A-17,565 (17,565). T-2:30.

MLB

Prospects: Astros confident in rebuilding plan

FROM BACK PAGE

Correa was just 17 when he was drafted out of high school in Puerto Rico. He spent last season in Low-A, where he hit .320 with 86 RBIs, and in big league games this spring he's excelled and homered twice in a recent game. The 6-foot-4, 205-pound Correa is probably a couple of years away from arriving in Houston, but he's already drawn comparisons to Alex Rodriguez.

Correa, who relaxes by fishing with his family, is ready to get to Houston and isn't daunted by the pressure of being a top draft pick.

"It's my dream, it's my goal to get to big leagues and help the Astros be a winning club," he said. "I think about it every single day. When I wake up, when I go to sleep. I want to help them try to be the organization they used to be in the past."

Appel graduated from Stanford before he was drafted by the Astros last year. They think he could be a front of the rotation starter soon, but he'll likely spend most of this season in Double-A.

Appel is the fan of board games and if he weren't playing baseball he'd probably be an architect. His uncle is the dean of the architecture school at Rice University.

He's very religious and said his faith helps him deal with the expectations of being a top prospect.

"I'm not going to say I'm above it," he said. "It is something that you think about. If baseball were to end tomorrow I know that I'd be secure and I know that I'd be able to keep living. Baseball isn't everything to me but that doesn't mean I'm not going to work as hard as I can."

Springer is expected to make his major league debut in 2014. Luhnow expects him to be a fan favorite thanks to his electric play and movie star good looks.

"He has the inherent talent to be a star and yet I could see his face being on the cover of magazines and him being on talk shows and having a really warm personality that's inviting that makes people like they really get to know him," Luhnow said.

Springer is shy in his personal life, but has an outgoing persona on the diamond. He's the Kanye West fan — and not just because of his musical talent.

"I just think he's true to himself and you don't see that a lot," he said. "I like that."

Singleton is Houston's first baseman of the future and should also make it to Houston in 2014. The 22-year-old left-handed slugger has struggled with an addiction to marijuana and spent time last season in a rehabilitation center, but says he's on the right track now.

Singleton, who played the saxophone growing up, got off to a tough start this spring, going 0-for-16 before homering on Thursday.

"I really don't put too much pressure on myself when it comes to hitting," Singleton said.

"Since I was little, baseball has been a game of fun. If you play hard and have fun, good



PHOTOS BY ALEX BRANDON/AP

Houston Astros pitcher Mike Foltyniewicz, above, throws during a spring training workout in Viera, Fla. Foltyniewicz has had his fastball clocked at over 100 mph, and has some in the organization convinced he could step in as a reliever for the Astros today. Delino DeShields, below, the eighth overall pick in the 2010 draft and son of the 13-year major leaguer of the same name, has impressed with his speed and work ethic. He is expected to start the season at Double-A and advance to Triple-A before the season's end.



things will happen."

Another pitcher is the flame-throwing Foltyniewicz, who was a drummer in a high school band called Stuck in October. He recently chopped off his wild and flowing rock star locks in favor of a shorter haircut, but is still working on taming his emotions on the mound.

"I kind of get a little out of control out there sometimes with a bad call or something like that," he said. "I've grown up a lot since I've come into pro ball, but I've still got to work out some things."

His fastball has been clocked at over 100 mph and the Astros think he could pitch as a reliever in the majors now, but want to keep him in the minors for a while to mold him into

a top starter.

"He's the hardest thrower in our organization and I think when you get a guy with that kind of arm strength, clearly there's going to be a lot of excitement about the player," Luhnow said.

DeShields' father and namesake played 13 years in the majors. The younger DeShields is the bowler of the group and rated as the best baserunner in the organization. It's easy to see why — the 21-year-old can fly.

He's been in big league camp this spring and got fans buzzing when he scored from first on a single in a recent game. He stole 101 bases in 2012 and swiped 51 last season in Single-A.

The eighth overall pick in the 2010 draft, DeShields has recently returned to the outfield after working at second base. Luhnow expects him to start 2014 at Double-A and advance to Triple-A before season's end.

"For me he's a sleeper," Luhnow said. "He's a guy that doesn't get mentioned with those other players, but he's got all the potential in the world to be an impact player given his tool-set and his bloodlines and his work ethic and all the things he brings to the table."

Despite all this up-and-coming talent, Luhnow knows that fans are disenchanted and antsy to see if the rebuilding plan is going to work. He's confident that it will.

"I know we have some work to do to regain the credibility and trust of the fans because of the record at the major league level the last three years," he said. "But that work starts now and the players and the staff know that and are motivated that we're going to start to demonstrate the results at the big league level this year."

Hall of Famer Schmidt recovering from cancer

CLEARWATER, Fla. — Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt is recovering from an advanced form of skin cancer that kept him from being a guest instructor with the Philadelphia Phillies in spring training.

The 64-year-old Schmidt was in camp Sunday to talk about his illness.

Schmidt was diagnosed in August with stage 3 melanoma. He has undergone two operations, radiation and chemotherapy. He says he now considers himself "a very lucky man."

Schmidt is scheduled for a scan Monday to see how his recovery has progressed.

Machado: 'I don't know if I'll make Opening Day'

SARASOTA, Fla. — It will be a few days before Manny Machado can run on his surgically repaired knee, and the Baltimore Orioles third baseman concedes he may not be ready for the start of the season.

"I don't know if I'll make Opening Day or not," Machado said Sunday. "It's not in the back of my mind. I'm not worried about playing games yet. I just want to get healthy. Once I get healthy I'll be ready to roll and keep playing and just get back into playing mode."

Machado had surgery on a torn ligament in his left knee in October. The knee is sore, a development that was not unexpected.

"It's part of the process, scar tissue breaking up. It's normal after the surgery I had," he said. "It was going to happen now or later so I'm pretty glad it was now. Just sit back a couple days and let it heal and then keep going."

Red Sox minor league C Jon Denney arrested

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Boston Red Sox minor league catcher Jon Denney has been arrested and charged with driving with a suspended license.

A report issued by the Lee County Sheriff's Office says Denney, who was arrested Thursday at 4:06 a.m., "became belligerent" and began to curse at officers. The 19-year-old Denney faces a March 31 trial date.

General manager Ben Cherington said the team is putting together a program for Denney to deal with his issues, and he likely won't be on the field for some time.

A player in the Red Sox organization has been arrested during spring training for at least three straight years.

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HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS EUROPE

Girls soccer preview

Rivals likely to continue title battles

Finalists in top divisions stocked to meet again; D-III much less clear cut

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

The DODDS Europe girls soccer season kicked off last weekend with deeply entrenched contenders in Division I and II and an entirely clean Division III slate. The opening weekend's handful of games gives way to a full-fledged slate Saturday, all leading up to the tournament May 19-22 at sites around Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Here's a look at the season ahead.

Division I

Why should a good thing have to end?

The fierce girls soccer rivalry between large-school powers Patch and Ramstein has only intensified in recent years. The Royals beat the Panthers in the 2012 title game; Patch earned its revenge last spring with a stirring 1-0 shutout win that ended the Royals' unbroken season.

While it's by no means guaranteed, this spring could yield another entry in the programs' ongoing championship-game series.

Start with the defending champs, Patch. The losses for the Panthers are significant, including Stars and Stripes girls soccer Athlete of the Year Caroline Rivera and revered head coach Tom Manuel. But the new and returning talent is encouraging.

First-team All-Europeans Nadia Santangelo and Whitney Mannier are back to patrol the midfield and defensive backfield, respectively. The midfield, a key area where possessions — and games — are often won and lost, is particularly well-equipped, with standouts Heidi Farrar, Amber Garcia and Kelsey Owtain joining Santangelo at the position.

That capable cast now falls under the direction of new coach Blake Little, a veteran of DODDS-Europe coaching in Italy and an internal promotion from within the Patch assistant ranks.

Little's first task as Panther head coach is a big one: hold off vengeance-minded Ramstein.

Ramstein coach Ricardo Buitrago, who has led the Royals to four European titles over the past decade, returns to the sidelines after a break last season. The decorated coach said he's "rejuvenated, refreshed and excited" to reassume command of the Royal ship and is hard at work crafting the considerable talent on hand into a team worthy of reclaiming its lost title.

"If we want to be on the pitch on May 22, we have to be mindful of the challenges that are in front of us," Buitrago said. "It has to be a team collective effort. We can't leave it to chance."

In addition to the Panthers, those challenges include 2013 semifinalists Kaiserslautern and Wiesbaden and aspiring contenders International School of Brussels, Lakenheath and Vilseck.

Kaiserslautern, a third-finisher in each of the last two seasons, has valid reasons



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Patch's Whitney Mannier centers the ball in last season's Division I title game against Ramstein. Mannier is back to help the Panthers defend their title.

for optimism; the Raiders return 11 varsity players, including defender Johanna Quinn and goalie Montana Staab.

"With a lot of returning players, they already know how to play with each other," head coach Brian Daly said.

Division II

It seems Italy's local sports skirmishes have been spilling over to the European championship level with increasing frequency in recent seasons. The longstanding girls soccer rivalry between Naples and Vicenza was an early example of that trend, and it's only set to escalate in 2014.

Defending champion Naples has won the last four Division II titles, and they're properly equipped for another successful defense this season. The Wildcats defeated the Cougars 3-0 on Saturday in one of only a few games played the opening weekend.

Striker Isabella Lucy, a member of DODDS-Europe's elite since the dawn of the decade, is finally a senior, and has known nothing but championships in her prep career. Fellow seniors Amilia Espiet and Hannah Hood are among the continent's most accomplished midfielders and goalies, respectively. Junior Kylie Beltz anchors a strong Wildcats' defense. And dynamic sophomore Tyler Treat, the breakout star of last year's tournament run, is poised to replace Lucy as the centerpiece of the Naples offense; in the meantime, they'll combine for DODDS-Europe's most explosive frontline attack.

Vicenza, meanwhile, has been anxiously looking forward to a rematch since the heartbreaking 2-1 decision in last year's title game. Coach Arric Alicea attributed the loss to a "lack of depth," and said the team is focused on addressing that concern with hopes of reversing last year's outcome.

If depth is an issue, it may well be the only one for a Cougars squad with a loaded roster that is a mirror-image of rival Naples. The team has top-shelf star power in Alex Frank, coming off a brilliant junior season that saw her rack up 20 goals and 11 assists. It has senior leadership in Frank, goalkeeper Zakiya Folks and midfielders Katie Claunch and Sarah Henry. The Cougars even have their own rising sophomore star in midfielder Emma Knapp.

While another Wildcats-Cougars showdown seems preordained, plenty of worthy spoilers lurk in the Division II ranks.

SHAPE, which returns 14 players from last year's roster, and Bitburg are primed for another shot after falling to the Italian clubs in last year's semifinals. Black Forest Academy is an annual candidate to pull off a bracket-flipping upset.

SEE GIRLS ON PAGE 29

Boys soccer preview

Uncertainty reigns, particularly in D-I

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

The DODDS Europe boys soccer season opened last weekend with many contenders in flux in all three divisions. Saturday brings the first full schedule of games in the regular season; the tournament will play out May 19-22 at sites around Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Here's a look at the season ahead.

Division I

Frustrated contenders from last year take note: It's safe to expect an entirely new championship-game matchup when the large-school title is claimed this spring.

One member of last year's final is officially out of the running. Heidelberg closed at the end of last school year, coming within a win of punctuating the school's athletics legacy with a storybook soccer title.

Meanwhile, the squad that spoiled the Lions' happy ending, International School of Brussels, is a long way away from championship form.

The Raiders return just six players from last year. The losses include all of their All-Europe and All-Tournament talent, and this year's roster includes no seniors.

Coach Philippe Kaisin frames the season as "a big rebuilding year."

"I will have the youngest team out there," Kaisin said. "Our strength is our enthusiasm."

Teams squeezed out of last year's championship picture will be just as enthusiastic to replace the Lions and Raiders in the season's final game.

Ramstein and Patch are poised to make a move after reaching the 2013 semifinals. The Royals, who took a perfect record into last season's tournament, return a pair of All-Europe midfield stars in Cameron Hansen and Brianno Illari. The Panthers are similarly stocked with senior talent.

Kaiserslautern, Vilseck and Wiesbaden will each look to build on winning 2013 seasons, with the Raiders and Warriors flush with incoming contributors from Heidelberg. Kaiserslautern coach Ken Robinson



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Merwin Hill's Shaun Brooks, seen here in last season's Division III final against Brussels, is one of nine returning players for the Mustangs this season.

said his team is anxious to contend after its own "rebuilding year" in 2013.

"Our expectation is to make the finals," Robinson said. "That is our sole goal this season."

Lakenheath lurks as the division's sleeper. New coach John Mitchell has nine returners from last year's solid squad, including goalie Christian Huizar and fullback Dillon Thompson to anchor a sturdy defense.

Division II

A fourth straight European championship won't come easily for Marymount. That doesn't mean it won't come.

Simone Trott, the coach and athletic director of the Rome-based team, called last season's third consecutive title the "lah hurrah" of the core group of seniors that started and perpetuated the school's DODDS Europe dynasty.

The absence of those key players certainly throws Marymount's reign into peril. But there is enough talent on hand that this season could end in yet another "hurrah" for the Lions.

Much of that talent is in the crucial midfield area. First-team All-Europe star Raffaele Bevilacqua returns for his senior season; he'll line up alongside Lotanna Mbe, who dazzled in a breakout freshman campaign last year. And while most of the rest of the roster is stocked with unfamiliar names, those names might be attached to the next generation of Lion champions.

Or, if the rest of the deep Division II field has its way, perhaps not.

All-Europe stars Lamberto Lamberini and Francesco Dinmore return for their senior seasons with American Overseas School of Rome, Marymount's fierce cross-town rival and last year's European runner-up. Head coach Niall Boyle cites "passing" and "speed" as his team's primary strengths; likely not coincidentally, those are the two facets of the game that Marymount dominated in winning the European crown a season ago.

AFNORTH, meanwhile, is well-positioned to crack the Italian monopoly on the European title game. Tenured head coach Kevin Padron returns 11 varsity contributors from last year's European semifinalist, including senior defender Gabriel DeSouza and young midfielders Logan Harless, Claudius Karich and Eren Yabici.

First-year head coach Isaac Michaels leads a skilled Black Forest Academy squad into the season, and boys' proven seniors Jordan Stemple, Daniel Mueller and Keith Min in a dangerous Falcons lineup.

Aviano, Naples or Vicenza could emerge from their rugged all-Italy regular season schedule with the proper seasoning for a run at the title.

And the combined team of Schweinfurt and Bamberg might accumulate enough players to field a winner: midfielders Lucas Sekutera and Ben Sekutera and striker DJ Bascombe are a nice start.

Division III

Both incumbent finalists enter the season solid bets to return to the title game.

Defending champion Brussels, a 4-2 winner over Merwin Hill in last year's final, welcomes senior midfielder Merab Chitnava back alongside eight other returning players, and adds some capable reinforcements in freshmen Tim Wilkinson and Blake Cornforth.

SEE BOYS ON PAGE 29

HIGH SCHOOL

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE WEEKEND IN PACIFIC

Fontanez, Galvin get off to a fast start

Carydalis Fontanez has lived her track and field years at Kinnick in the shadows of Seoul American's Amanda Henderson and Kubasaki's Jessica Irink and Allie Reichenberg. That might change, if Saturday's season-opening meet was an indicator.

The senior distance specialist captured the 800, 1,600 and 3,200 races and helped the Red Devils win the 3,200 relay, leading a parade of Kinnick athletes who sparked at Yokota's Bank Field.

"That would be good," Red Devils coach Luke Voth said of Fontanez's chances in postseason competitions. "She's running very dedicated right now. She's working hard."

Among other Kinnick winners on Saturday was Shakita Samuels, a junior who won the 200 and helped win the 1,600 relay, while tying for first in the high jump. Also, sophomore Jabari Johnson won the 200 and 400 going away, while senior Ian O'Brien captured the shot put.

Another Kanto luminary who fell just short last year in Far East, Yokota's Daniel Galvin, offered up an indication of his own, taking the 800 and 1,600 and helping the Panthers win the 1,600 relay.

"Good start," Voth said. "We have a lot to work on, everybody has something to work on. (But) I'm pleased with the performances, it was a nice day, it was a good first meet."

Kadena: Freshman Malachai Daniels, despite a sore arm, went 2-for-2 with two walks, two triples and four RBIs in her high-school debut, powering 2013 Far East Division I runner-up Kadena past Kubasaki 13-3 in a five-inning Okinawa softball season opener. ... Yuji Callahan and Jakob Weicht each scored twice as the Panthers boys soccer team tuned up for Wednesday's matchup at Kubasaki by downing Ginoza 5-3.

Kubasaki: In a rematch of last spring's Far East Division I baseball semifinals, Justin Novak struck out 15 and hit a walk-off RBI grounder as American School won in Japan averaged that 1-0 semifinal loss with a 2-1 win Friday, ASU fol-



GREG HOLLADAY/Special to Stars and Stripes

Yokota freshman Ai Vezay negotiates a hurdle in the 300 low hurdles during Saturday's DODDS Japan/Kanto Plain season-opening track and field meet at Yokota Air Base, Japan. Vezay won the event.

lowed that with a 10-0 shutout. But the Dragons rebounded Saturday at St. Mary's International, 7-1 and 12-1, to complete their four-game, two-day Tokyo road swing.

Perry: Behind freshman Bobbi Hill's 11 goals and sophomore Ani Erhart's seven, the Samurai girls soccer team has gotten off to a 7-0 start, but coach Suzette Lopez said she'll be more convinced they're the real deal if they do well at Yokota and Kinnick the next couple of weeks.

King: Leann White, Jaelyn Laurente and Desmaria Austin led a batting assault that helped the Cobras softball team begin

what coach McKinzy Best called a quest to take care of some "very much unfinished business." The Cobras, Far East Division II runners-up last May, beat Zama American 10-2 and 14-13 in their openers.

Edgren: Vanessa Black's four goals helped the Eagles girls soccer team get off to its best start ever, beating Zama 2-1 and Seisen International 2-0. Black and her sister Jen, a former Eagle who now helps coach, are one of four sister groupings with the team, including seniors Madeline and Elaine Cotton and their freshman sister Grace, senior Natalie and freshman Colleen Gammel and senior Mary, junior Madeline and freshman Emma Mattingly. Because of snow, the

team practiced in the middle-school gym prior to their first matches.

Yokota: Sophomore distance specialist Daniel Galvin became the first runner in Pacific history to open the season with a sub-two-minute time in the 800, clocking 1:59.22. The Pacific record is 1:57.3. ... Panthers softball and baseball also got off to good starts at Perry, each winning twice, baseball 15-4 and 13-0 and softball 25-9 and 21-4.

Zama: Trojans track and field showed it may be a threat to make noise in Far East Division II, as Nyah Lewis won the shot put, Courtney Cole-

man and Kalob Gunn the long jump, Candace Bowman the 400 and Jarell Hilder the 3,200. The Trojans also won the girls 400 relay.

Guam: Panthers boys basketball finished on a high note. Jordan Agon had 28 points, leading three players in double figures, and Lewis Harris grabbed 13 rebounds and Austy Hines 11 as Guam doubled John F. Kennedy 72-68 in the league's third-place game.

Humphreys: Manasseh Nartey's second goal of the season Saturday helped the Blackhawks boys soccer team make history. Humphreys battled Taejon Christian International to a 1-1 home draw — the first team standings point a Blackhawks soccer team has scored in Korean-American Interscholastic Activities Conference Blue Division play.

Osan: After opening the season with home shutout losses to Seoul Foreign, the boys falling 4-0 and the girls 6-0, the Cougars will look to right the ship on the road. They visit Seoul Foreign on Wednesday and Yongsan International-Seoul on Thursday.

Daegu: The Warriors soccer, baseball and softball teams each got off to rough starts, the soccer teams each losing twice and baseball and softball falling once each against Seoul American. Soccer next plays at TCIS and Seoul American, while the diamond teams host Osan, Humphreys and Seoul next weekend.

Seoul American: Hokkyung Adkins and the Falcons boys soccer team got the start they wanted Friday, beating YIS-Seoul 7-2 at home. Adkins netted a hat trick, while Jason Lee scored twice. They hit the road Wednesday to TCIS and on Friday to Seoul Foreign before entertaining Daegu on Saturday.

— Dave Ormauer

Girls: Departing finalists open D-III race

FROM PAGE 29

To make things more competitive, 2013 Division III champ Alconbury and runner-up Rota have both moved to Division II.

With the full season still stretched out in front of them, anything seems possible.

"There is tremendous work ethic and heart in each of the players," Bitburg coach Aubrey Maxwell said. "They want to succeed and are willing to work hard."

Division III

The promotion of finalists Alconbury and Rota to Division II leaves the middle-school scene smaller than ever. As they've been in every team sport this season, incumbent Division III stalwarts

Brussels, Menwith Hill and Sigonella will be centrally involved in the fight over the abdicated small-school throne. Remote contenders like Incirlik also have improved odds of making a deep tournament run.

Brussels packs enviable veteran leadership and a winning culture. The Brigands return eight varsity players from last year's team, including Ali DeFazio and Aleza Vitale, who recently keyed the Brigands' second straight basketball championship.

But even with Alconbury and Rota gone, Brussels' path isn't clear. Sigonella beat Menwith Hill in last year's third place game, and each has the talent to move into the main event this season.

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Boys: Graduations leave Brigands vulnerable

FROM PAGE 29

But the Brigands' losses are considerable, including 2013 Stars and Stripes boys soccer Athlete of the Year Kristian Javier. Compounding that problem, head coach Alex Walford said, is a preseason injury bug that has slowed the team's preparations for its title defense. A tough early schedule against the upper-division likes of AFNORTH, ISB, and Lakenheath only ratchets up the pressure.

Walford said the Brigands plans to "stay healthy as a team and focus on our style of play" in hopes of surviving the grind with title hopes intact.

The Mustangs stand ready to seize on any exposed vulnerability. Menwith Hill

coach Ken Brooks has nine returning varsity players of his own to work with, and said an experienced midfield provides a "strong foundation" for a team that is "generally inexperienced."

"If we can play disciplined soccer and stay positive, we'll be successful," Brooks said.

Sigonella, a 2013 semifinalist alongside since-promoted Alconbury, will throw its considerable star power into the fray. Star midfielder Alessandro Thomas can complete a four-year All-European career with a standout senior season, and junior keeper Thomas Wray is a stingy presence in goal.

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Iowa State tops Baylor to win Big 12 title

By DAVE SKRETTA
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — In the days after DeAndre Kane decided to transfer to Iowa State, the former Marshall guard sent a simple, five-word text message to new teammate Georges Niang.

It said: "I just want to win." Kane did everything in his power to deliver on Saturday night, scoring 17 points to jumpstart a struggling offense. Niang had 13 points, and together they helped the No. 16 Cyclones rally for a 74-65 victory over Baylor and their first Big 12 tournament title since 2000.

"We play with each other. We fight with each other. We're brothers on the court," said Kane, who was dismissed from Marshall for unspecified reasons, but has made the most of his second chance with the Cyclones.

"Even when we get down," he said, "we trust one another. We keep fighting and we find a way." The Cyclones were buoyed by a group of supporters dressed in red, eager to see whether coach Fred Hoiberg — who has already restored Hilton Magic — could start bringing home trophies, too.

When the final buzzer sounded inside Sprint Center, Hoiberg raised the court with his finger raised No. 1, as in the top of the Big 12, for only the second time in



SHELBY TAUBER, THE DAILY TEXAN/AP

Iowa State celebrates after a 74-65 victory over Baylor in an the Big 12 tournament title game on Saturday in Kansas City, Mo. The Cyclones earned an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament with the win.

school history.

"The fist pump was such an emotional feeling for me," said Hoiberg, who dedicated the win to his beloved mentor, Johnny Orr, the former Cyclones coach who died in December.

"This one is for him," Hoiberg said. "The fist pump was in honor of Coach, and also to thank the

fans as well. I just wanted them to know how much we appreciated what they brought."

Naz Long and Dustin Hogue had 12 points apiece, and Big 12 player of the year Melvin Ejim finished with 10 points and nine rebounds for the fourth-seeded Cyclones (26-7), who knocked off top-seeded Kansas in the semifi-

nals before ending the Bears' tremendous tournament run.

Kenny Chery had 16 points for the seventh-seeded Bears (24-11), who have never won a postseason conference tournament. They've lost all three tries since the formation of the Big 12.

Brady Heslip finished with 14 points, and Isaiah Austin and

Royce O'Neale each had 10 for the Bears, who were trying to become the first champion to win four games in four days.

Instead, they ran out of steam when they needed it the most.

"We weren't tired," Heslip insisted. "They just made some really tough plays."

Baylor, which had led for all but 97 seconds in its first three games, maintained control throughout much of the second half, but Iowa State finally pulled ahead when Ejim answered a chant of "Let's Go Cyclones" from the sea of red with a three-pointer that gave them a 53-50 lead with 5:45 to go.

The game turned into a tug-of-war down the stretch, the Cyclones taking the lead, the Bears grabbing it right back. Iowa State eventually persevered, once again relying on its stars.

Ejim drained a three-pointer to give the Cyclones a 62-58 lead with 2:45 to go, and after Heslip made two free throws for Baylor, Hogue converted a nifty reverse layup to restore the lead.

Niang's two free throws with just over 2 minutes left gave Iowa State a 66-60 lead, and then he sealed the game with his driving layup with 36 seconds left, starting a party among Iowa State fans that had been dormant for a decade in the making.

"We didn't lose our composure," Hoiberg said. "Just a gutsy, gutsy performance by our guys."

Conference championships roundup

Woodard leads Tulsa to Conference USA crown

The Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas — James Woodard scored 27 points to lead the Golden Hurricane to its first NCAA tournament berth since 2003 with a 69-60 victory Saturday in the Conference USA tournament final.

"It's an indescribable feeling," said Woodard, who is from Tulsa. "Growing up as a kid, you can't wait for March Madness. To be a part of this, this time around, and for us being so young as a team, it's definitely a dream come true."

Woodard, who scored 18 points in the second half, made 7 of 8 free throws down the stretch to help Tulsa hold off the Bulldogs.

Tulsa (21-12), which was the No. 2 seed, will carry an 11-game win streak into the tournament. Top-seeded Louisiana Tech came up short, extending an NCAA tournament drought dating to 1991.

The Bulldogs (27-7) were led by Kenneth Smith with 16 points and

Kenny McNeale with 15. Alex Hamilton finished with 12.

The Bulldogs led 35-34 at the half in a game with 16 lead changes. Neither team led by more than five points until Tulsa took control in the final 5 minutes, pushing the advantage to 10 points on

a free throw by Woodard with 1:12 left.

"This was a lot of fun," said Tulsa second-year head coach Danny Manning, who won an NCAA title playing for Kansas in 1988. "It was a hard-fought game. Louisiana Tech is a talented team. We have three other teams in our league deserving of a bid."

Louisiana Tech, which made 7 of 10 three-pointers in the first half and shot 45 percent from the field, cooled off in the second half.

The Bulldogs, limited by a stingy Tulsa defense, shot 32 percent for the game. They went just 4 of 15 from three-point range in the second half and 15 of 23 from the free-throw line.

America East

Albany 69, Stony Brook 60: DJ Evans scored 16 points as the Great Danes (18-14) defeated the Seawolves (23-10), giving Albany its second consecutive NCAA tournament berth. Peter Hooley added 15 for the Great Danes, including a three-pointer with 1:04 left to put his team up 61-56.

Big Sky

Weber State 88, North Dakota 67: Kyle Tresnak scored 27

points and Davion Berry added 19 to help the Wildcats (19-11) beat the Fighting Sioux (17-16) in Ogden, Utah for an automatic NCAA berth.

Joel Bolomboy added 11 rebounds for the Wildcats, who clinched their first NCAA tournament spot since 2007.

Big West

Cal Poly 61, CS Northridge 59: Freshman guard Ridge Shipley hit a go-ahead three-pointer with 13.7 seconds left and the seventh-seeded Mustangs (13-19) completed their improbable march to the school's first conference title, beating the Matadors (17-18) in Anaheim, Calif., and putting coach Joe Callero's team into the NCAA tournament for the first time in school history.

Cal Poly became the lowest seed to win the title in the tournament's 39-year history. Shipley scored 11 of his 14 points in the second half and Chris Eversley had a team-high 18 and Dave Nwaba added 17.

Mid-American

Western Michigan 98, Toledo 77: David Brown scored 32 points. Tucker Haymond added 21 and the Broncos (23-9) earned

their first trip to the NCAA tournament in 10 years by beating the Rockets (27-6) in Cleveland.

Shayne Whittington added 20 and 13 rebounds for WMU, which had to overcome an 18-point deficit in the semifinals to sneak past Akron.

The title game was much easier for the Broncos, who pulled away in the second half, outrebounded the Rockets 46-27 and set the tourney record for points.

Mid-Eastern Athletic

N.C. Central 71, Morgan State 62: Jeremy Ingram scored 29 points and the Eagles (28-5) used an 8-1 run to get some separation and held on to beat the Bears (15-16) in Norfolk, Va.

Karamo Jawara added 10 points for the Eagles, who won their 20th consecutive game and claimed the league's automatic NCAA tournament berth in only their third season at the Division I level.

Ian Chiles scored 26 to lead Morgan State.

Mountain West

No. 20 New Mexico 64, No. 8 San Diego State 58: Cameron Bairstow scored 17 points to lead the Lobos (27-6) over the Aztecs

(29-4) in Las Vegas, giving New Mexico an automatic berth into the NCAA tournament.

Trailing by one with a little more than one minute left in the game, Bairstow scored five of the Lobos' last eight points to help the Lobos win their third consecutive tournament title.

Southland

Stephen F. Austin 68, Sam Houston State 49: Thomas Walkup had 19 points and the Lumberjacks (31-2) used a big second half run to defeat the Bearkats (23-10) in Katy, Texas and earn their first trip to the NCAA tournament since 2009.

Deshaun Walker added 12 points and Jacob Parker had 10 points and 12 rebounds for Stephen F. Austin, which won its 28th straight game.

Southwestern Athletic

Texas Southern 78, Prairie View 73: Aaric Murray had 27 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Tigers (19-14) over the Panthers (11-23) in Houston and capture their fifth NCAA tournament berth in school history.

Prairie View was led by 19 points from junior guard Montreal Scott.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Scoreboard

Conference tournaments

America East Conference

Albany, N.Y.
Championship
Saturday, March 15

Albany (N.Y.) 69, Stony Brook 60

American Athletic Conference

At FedEx Forum

Memphis, Tenn.
Championship
Saturday, March 15

Louisville 71, UConn 61

Atlantic Coast Conference

At Greensboro Coliseum

Greensboro, N.C.
Semifinals

Saturday, March 15

Virginia 61, Pittsburgh 58

Duke 75, N.C. State 67

Championship

Sunday, March 16

Virginia vs. Duke

Atlantic 10 Conference

At Brooklyn, N.Y.

Semifinals

Saturday, March 15

Saint Joseph's 67, St. Bonaventure 48

VCU 74, George Washington 55

Championship

Sunday, March 16

St. Joseph's vs. VCU

Big East Conference

At Madison Square Garden

New York

Championship

Saturday, March 15

Providence 65, Crighton 58

Big Sky Conference

At The Dee Events Center

Ogden, Utah

Championship

Saturday, March 15

Weber State 88, North Dakota 67

Big Ten Conference

At Bankers Life Fieldhouse

Indianapolis

Semifinals

Saturday, March 15

Michigan 72, Ohio State 69

Michigan State 83, Wisconsin 75

Championship

Sunday, March 16

Michigan vs. Michigan State

Big 12 Conference

At The Sprint Center

Kansas City, Mo.

Championship

Saturday, March 15

Iowa State 74, Baylor 65

Big West Conference

At The Honda Center

Anaheim, Calif.

Championship

Saturday, March 15

Cal Poly 61, Cal State Northridge 59

Conference USA

Championship

Saturday, March 15

Tulsa 69, Louisiana Tech 60

Mid-American Conference

Championship

Saturday, March 15

Western Michigan 58, Toledo 77

Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference

At Norfolk, Va.

Semifinals

Championship

Saturday, March 15

N. Carolina Central 71, Morgan State 60

Mountain West Conference

At The Thomas & Mack Center

Las Vegas

Championship

Saturday, March 15

New Mexico 64, San Diego State 58

Pacific-12 Conference

At MGM Grand Garden Arena

Las Vegas

Championship

Saturday, March 15

UCLA 75, Arizona 71

Southeastern Conference

At The Georgia Dome

Atlanta

Semifinals

Saturday, March 15

Florida 56, Tennessee 45

Championship

Sunday, March 16

Florida vs. Kentucky

Southland Conference

At The Toyota Center

Houston

Championship

Saturday, March 15

Texas Southern 78, Prairie View 73

Sun Belt Conference

At Lakfront Arena

New Orleans

Semifinals

Saturday, March 15

Georgia State 75, Louisiana-Lafayette 72

Championship

Sunday, March 16

Georgia State vs. Louisiana-Lafayette

Western Athletic Conference

At Orleans Arena

Las Vegas

Championship

Saturday, March 15

New Mexico State 77, Idaho 55

UCLA stuns Arizona in Pac-12 final

By JOHN MARSHALL

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — UCLA went into the season with the uncertainty that comes with a new coach. The Bruins suffered their share of setbacks, a notable one just a week earlier.

Once the Pac-12 tournament got rolling, the Bruins took off. Now, after trading body blows with one of the nation's best defensive teams, UCLA takes home a Pac-12 championship in its first season under Steve Alford.

Outlasting one of the best closing teams in basketball, UCLA knocked off No. 4 Arizona 75-71 in the conference tournament final on Saturday.

"We've got an edge to us now, it's a lot of fun," Alford said. "To win a championship means a lot to us."

They definitely earned this one, emerging from a battle of the Pac-12's best teams that featured big plays, big blows and floor burns.

The Wildcats looked UCLA down in the second half after an offensive show in the first.

The Bruins (26-8) countered by doing the same thing to Arizona down the stretch, and then made the big plays against the big-play Wildcats to finish it.

UCLA point guard Kyle Anderson was at his all-around best, finishing with 21 points, 15 rebounds and five assists. Jordan Adams made a big three-pointer with 45

seconds left and scored 19 points. Norman Powell scored 15 points and combined with David Wear to hit four free throws in the final five seconds.

After three games in three days, the Bruins are Pac-12 champions and on a big roll headed into the NCAA tournament.

"This gives us the confidence that we not only play with anybody, but beat anybody," Alford said. "But you've got to get hot

and stay hot."

Arizona (30-4) started flat defensively, clawed back behind its offense and shut down the Bruins through most of the second half.

The Wildcats were unable to finish it off for one of the rare times this season, hurt by 10 missed free throws and questionable shot selection down the stretch.

Nick Johnson led Arizona with 22 points and Kaleb Tarczewski added 12. Aaron Gordon had 11

points, eight rebounds and eight assists for the Wildcats, who may have lost out on a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament with the loss.

"We lost a game we could have won," Arizona coach Sean Miller said. "Jordan Adams hit a great shot and I believe some of the things we learned in today's game will better serve us for the big prize, why we all do this, and that's to hopefully advance next week in the NCAA tournament."

Providence gets past McDermott

By JIM O'CONNELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bryce Cotton was No. 2 to Doug McDermott in the Big East all season. He's No. 1 now.

The senior guard scored 23 points and Providence won its first Big East tournament title since 1994 with a great defensive effort against McDermott and No. 14 Creighton in a 65-58 victory Saturday night.

The fourth-seeded Friars (23-11) used a 2-3 zone to hold the second-seeded Bluejays (26-7) 24 points below their season average and to an 8-for-30 effort from behind the three-point line.

Cotton, who finished second to McDermott in the conference scoring but was also a unanimous first-team All-Big East selection, was the scoring star in the championship game and he was selected the tournament MVP.

"Unbelievable. He's been like that the whole year and he saved his best for last on one of the greatest stages ever," Providence coach Ed Cooley said of Cotton.

"He was fantastic."

Cotton had a net draped around his neck and a smile on his face as he talked after the game.



FRANK FRANKLIN/IAF

Creighton's Doug McDermott reacts during the second half of a 65-58 loss to Providence in the Big East tournament final.

"It's just a vindicating feeling to know that the Providence Friars are Big East champions," he said. "This is something our school and our city hasn't seen in a long time. For us to finally bring that back home, it's top of the list."

"This has been years and years of blood, sweat, tears and praying."

McDermott, who came in leading the nation in scoring with 26.5 average, finished 10-for-19 from the field, including 5-for-12 from three-point range, for 27 points.

Providence was considered on the bubble coming into the game for an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament.

Louisville, Harrell win first AAC title

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Rick Pitino switched from coach to lobbyist the moment his Louisville Cardinals won their third straight conference tournament title.

Of course, Pitino thinks the defending national champs deserve a No. 1 seed, even if he knows they likely won't get one.

Montred Harrell had 22 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks, and fifth-ranked Louisville beat No. 21 Connecticut 71-61 Saturday for the inaugural American Athletic Conference title in the Cardinals' lone season in the league.

Pitino said he's very biased. "But I'm very impressed with our guys," Pitino said. "What they've done to win a regular season, conference tournament the way we have done it, in the fashion we have done it fits the eye test. I can't talk about the strength of the league. If you want to blame anybody, blame football. Don't blame us."

The Cardinals (29-5) clinched their 40th NCAA tournament berth in style with their 19th overall tournament title. They took the last two in the Big East and added the American to go with their share of the regular-season title with Cincinnati. They will play next season in the Atlan-

tic Coast Conference.

"To win a regular-season championship and a tournament championship back to back is not easy. You have to have special players, and these two epitomize exactly that," Pitino said, praising Russ Smith and Harrell.

Smith, named the tournament's most outstanding player, scored 19 points. He also had five steals to move into a tie for Louisville's career record with 254. Chris Jones added 11 points.

UConn (26-8) came in looking for an eighth tournament title to go with seven from the Big East. It was barred from postseason play a year ago, but is a virtual lock to return to the NCAA tournament this year.

The Huskies left Memphis with a third loss this season to Louisville — all by double digits.

"Louisville's playing great basketball," UConn coach Kevin Ollie said. "They won the championship last year, they went to the Final Four the year before. They got pretty much their whole team back, an experienced bunch. They play hard and well coached. But this tournament is wide open. It's a one-game elimination. Somebody can get hot, and hopefully that team will be us."



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

Arizona's Kaleb Tarczewski battles for a rebound against UCLA's Travis Wear in the second half of the Pac-12 tournament championship game on Saturday in Las Vegas. UCLA won 75-71.

SPORTS



That's the spirit

76ers tie franchise mark for futility with 20th consecutive loss | Page 24

MLB

Rising stars?

Astros' top prospects nearing big-league debuts

BY KRISTIE RIEKEN
The Associated Press

seasons as they went all-in on a plan to restock their farm system and build from within.

Now after three dreadful seasons, the time is approaching for these prospects to

begin contributing to the major league team.

The top among them are 2012 top overall pick Correa, a 19-year-old shortstop, last year's top pick right-hander Appel and Springer, an outfielder who hit 37 homers with 45 stolen bases between Double- and Triple-A last season.

There's no clever way to describe this trio like the fabled Killer B's of Jeff Bagwell, Craig Biggio and Lance Berkman, the longtime former faces of the franchise who wowed fans for years. But general manager Jeff Luhnow, the architect of Houston's rebuilding plan, believes they could become just as loved in Houston.

"I think between Carlos and George and Mark, we've got three guys — hopefully they all three make it and fulfill their potential — but they could all three be the next version of Biggio, Bagwell, Berkman," Luhnow said.

**SEE PROSPECTS ON
PAGE 27**

There's an avid fisherman, a drummer and a saxophone player. A fourth loves board games, one enjoys bowling and another proudly says he admires Kanye West.

Described are Carlos Correa, Mike Foltyniewicz, Jon Singleton, Mark Appel, Delino DeShields and George Springer.

They're top prospects of the Houston Astros, a group expected to turn around this once-proud franchise and get fans back to the ballpark after three straight 100-loss seasons.

The Astros traded away all of their recognizable players over the past few

Pitcher Mark Appel is one of the Astros' top prospects. He and a few others are expected to start to contributing and help turn around a team that has had three straight 100-loss seasons.

DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP



Patch, Ramstein figure to continue rivalry
High Schools, Pages 28-29

Kane powers Cyclones to Big 12 title
College basketball, Pages 30-31

